H W Nelson

THE

SOUTHERN PLANTER;

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, and the Household Arts.

EDITED BY C. T. ROTTS.

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April

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THE SOUTHERN PLANTER,

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Agriculture is the nursing mother of the Arts. *Xenophon.* | Tillage and Pasturage are the two breasts of the State.—*Sully.*

C. T. BOTTS, Editor.

VOL. V. RICHMOND, APRIL, 1845. No. 4.

For the Southern Planter.

ON THE MANAGEMENT AND APPLICATION OF MANURE.

When we consider how much the productiveness of our farms depends upon the manure heap, and how this matter is generally neglected, a few remarks, I trust, will not be unacceptable, and although familiar to most farmers, if they stimulate any person to apply them who have hitherto neglected to do so, the object in making them will be attained.

Of manure too much cannot be said, nor can it be denied that manuring the land forms a grand item in farming, both on account of its expense and its need to replenish the land; it is therefore, very important to know the art of managing this department with the greatest economy, and preventing waste in any possible shape. The subject cannot, in my humble opinion, be agitated or brought into view too frequently, nor too strongly urged. Although there is little danger of applying too great a quantity to land, still it may be used to excess. Indian corn is a voracious feeder, and will bear a free dressing; but the crop of small grain may be injured by manuring too highly.

Liberal manuring is the basis of all successful farming; and it is folly, under any circumstances, excepting the virgin lands of the West, where there has been for centuries an accumulation of untouched vegetable matter, to disregard the great law of nature, which requires that the soil be often replenished, in order to obtain its products, as much as that the cow, which is daily milked, should be daily fed.

New lands, cleared of their trees, and the brush and the rubbish burnt on the ground, yield a number of crops without other manure. But in the old settled parts, there is, I presume, no land of this sort. All of us, therefore, depend on common manure for crops that will reimburse the expense of their cultivation. But the quantity of manure on our farms is extremely limited, and inadequate to our wants. And as I consider manure is all-in-all, it is of the highest importance to the farmer, not only to husband what he has, and next consider how he may increase the quantity. Notwithstanding the various ways of collecting and increasing it has been frequently pointed out, its utility and necessity urged by scientific and practical men, little attention is paid to the subject by one-half the farmers in the country. Nothing more is provided for their fields than what is collected from their cattle yards, horse stables and pig sties.

I have for the last few years made a practice of making manure from every article of rubbish and filth that was in and about my premises. I have even hauled sumach leaves a distance of four miles, from the morocco tanners, to mix in my compost heap, as I hold that all vegetable and animal substances are fertilizers, if properly managed and applied.

But however correct and economical may be the manner of saving and applying manure, the quantity, it cannot be denied, still falls short of the farmer's wants. How to supply this deficiency merits the deepest attention of the husbandman.

Dr. Elliot, who wrote essays on Field Husbandry nearly a century ago, tried this method: In the road he made a pen long in proportion to its width, in which he confined his cows every night during the summer; and once a month, taking down the end fences, ploughed up the pan. By this process, he remarks, the furrow depth of earth was become dung, and when applied to grass and corn, appeared to equal other dung in its effects.

Now, my practice has been as follows: As soon as all the manure is removed from the cattle yard in the spring, to cart into it loam or soil, as the bottom is clay, and cover it two or three inches thick. If peat or muck is attainable, I would recommend either in preference to soil.—At the close of every four weeks, add another cover of one or two inches. By the last of September there would be collected a mass of manure from six to eight inches in depth over the yard. And while the dung and urine of the cattle, which I always confine in the yard of nights, during summer, would thus be in a great degree secured against loss by evaporation, the cattle would find, what they universally seek, a clean dry bed to lie in. I have also increased, the manure made by my hogs, in pens, by the addition of weeds, refuse vegetables, turf taken from the road-side, bottom of ditches, &c.

My cattle yard is dishing, still it sometimes overflows, and when the excess passes off, I caused a basin to be excavated to retain the liquid. Near this basin, which is outside of the

yard, I place my compost heap, which I commence by a layer of yard manure, about one foot in thickness; then a thin layer of soil; then a layer of green weeds; then a layer of horse manure; then a coat of turf, or soil, and so on, alternately, with such materials as were available; in short, every thing within my reach of a fertilizing nature, was placed in the heap, carrying up the sides square until the pile reached the height of five or six feet. After completely saturating the whole mass with the liquid which escaped from the cattle yard, I cover the whole with fine soil, to prevent evaporation. After remaining a sufficient time, I caused it to be carefully turned and completely mixed, throwing on the liquid manure as it progressed. A fermentation soon takes place, which destroys the vitality of the seeds of such weeds as may find their way into the heap.

In this way I have made, in the course of the year, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty loads of very good manure.

In regard to the application of manure, my practice has been to diligently plough in all putrescent manure as soon as spread; even so far as to spread in the morning no more than could be ploughed in before noon, and while the team was eating to spread only so much more as could be ploughed in before night.

Manure which is spread and immediately ploughed in, and in the course of cultivation is well mixed with the soil, will produce several good crops—more or less according to the quantity applied, and the nature of the soil.

From my own observation and experience, I have come to the conclusion that manure arising from all animal and vegetable substances, should be exposed as little as possible to the sun, the air, and drenching rains; and when applied to the soil be immediately ploughed in. It is also my opinion, that manure, when ploughed in, cannot be kept too near the surface, provided it is well mixed with the soil and covered, that the essence will be dissolved by rain and taken up by the roots of the plants. So extremely minute are the mouths of plants that the nourishing parts of manure can enter them only in a state of dissolution by water. This element supplied by rain to the earth, during the season of vegetation, is in a regular course ascending. The essence of manure ascends with it, and the portion not intercepted by the roots of plants escape into the air.

Upon thin, light soils nothing could be raised without abundance of manure. It is, consequently, an object of much attention to the farmer to collect as much as possible and to apply it in the most advantageous manner.

C. N. Bement.

Albany, February, 1845.

From the Genesee Farmer.

CORN FODDER.

Mr. Editor,—One evidence of improvement in agriculture is the almost universal use of cornstalks for fodder; it being as rare now to see a field of stalks left to be run over and trampled under foot by cattle, as it was, before the establishment of agricultural societies and agricultural newspapers, to see a field of corn cut up by the roots, and housed in good order for winter feeding. Many farmers are now beginning to find, that corn can be cultivated exclusively for fodder, cheaper than they can raise other feed. But there is an error very prevalent in regard to the best method of cultivation—I allude to sowing it broadcast. Farmers are so much in the habit of sowing all crops broadcast, that the subject of drilling-in crops has received but little attention. We reason, that because labor is high and land cheap, therefore, we cannot afford the time and expense of drilling, but must use more land and get lighter crops. As I have had some experience in cultivating corn fodder, I think I can make it appear that the drill system of culture is the cheapest.

Lands to produce corn for any purpose should be highly manured—and of course they will be very subject to weeds. Corn cultivated in hills is usually very much injured by weeds; but very much more so when sown broadcast.—Other spring grains are put in the ground so early, that they get the start of weeds; but by the time corn is planted, vegetation is rapid, and if it has to run an even race with weeds, they are sure to come off victorious. In getting the seed into the ground, sowing broodcast is the most expeditious; but this advantage is greatly overbalanced in harvesting and curing the crops. Corn fodder is the most difficult to cure of any crop within my knowledge. When we recollect, that from 800 to 1,000 lbs. of syrup, boiled sufficiently to grain into sugar, has been obtained from one acre of stalks, we shall realize that stalks contain an abundance of sap.

The following methed of cultivation I have practiced with success: Prepare the land as usual for corn; mark off the drills, three feet apart, north and south, so as to admit the noonday sun between the rows. Let the corn be dropped in the drills so as to have at least one kernel in every two inches. Two bushels of seed should be used to the acre, and there is not much danger of getting the corn too thickly in the drills. They should be covered by drawing the earth from each side of the drill with a hoe. As soon as the rows can be distinguished, they should be plastered, cultivated, and hoed. A skilful hand with a cultivator will perform the after-culture, as the corn will grow so rapidly as to soon cover the ground, and prevent the

growth of weeds. It should be cut as soon as it gets its growth, and before frosts. The best method is to use a common corn-cutter, laying the stalks upon the ground in small bunches, and when wilted, binding them in small bundles, and stacking them in the usual manner of stacking corn. From seven to nine bundles placed in a stack, and bound around the top, will cure well. The stacks will need to stand a long time in good weather to be thoroughly cured; and after all, they will almost assuredly heat in the mow, and become mouldy, unless well salted.

Of their value as food for stock I need not speak, as horses, cattle or sheep will discuss that matter to your entire satisfaction, provided you place them within reach.

The great difficulty with corn sown broadcast is in the harvesting and curing. I knew a crop on rich land, which grew about seven feet high, and the stalks were so limber as to scarcely bear their own weight. It had to be cut with a sickle, which was a slow, tedious process. If they can be mowed or cradled, there is still much danger of their becoming spoiled before they can be cured; and there is no safe manner of curing them except by stacking. Farmers will at once perceive that they are much more readily bound and stacked when in drills, and cut with a sickle or corn-cutter, than when scattered over the whole surface.

There is another use for corn sown for fodder, which is practiced by some farmers near Boston, viz: for soiling—and it is represented as a crop equal to any of the articles used in England for that purpose. If, instead of trying to introduce foreign articles, of which we are entirely unacquainted, we should try experiments in using corn, we should probably find our account in it. We know it is congenial to our climate, and will afford wholesome food for man and beast.

Yours, MYRON ADAMS.

East Bloomfield, January, 1845.

TOBACCO.

To the Editor of the Southern Planter:

Sir,—Tell the farmers, in re hanging their tobacco not to open or split the bundle to straddle the stick; but have enough strips of shucks prepared, and then put two bundles of tobacco together; put a strip of shuck around them and give it one tie, and let one bundle (whole) hang upon one side the stick and the other upon the other. It will require less than half the time to put the bulk (if it be in bulk) of tobacco upon sticks after it is tied, than singly, because you can hang the two bundles in the same time as one, even if one of the two bundles had to be opened to straddle the stick, which is not done. The time lost in opening carefully the one bundle and hanging it, is more than compensated for, by hanging the two bundles together, neither of which has to be opened at all. Moreover, you avoid making those ugly and permanent bends in the stems of the leaves composing the bundle, which are seen in the stems on both sides of the stick, if the plant be put on straight, and in the stems on one side the stick, if the head or tie be put on one side. These bends, as you know, are rarely gotten out, and the tobacco does not break so smoothly. Tell them, too, never to bulk tobacco down which has to be re-hung, but hang as they strip; bulking and weighing, or either, presses the leaves, making the bundle close together, and in re-hanging (in the usual way) they are just opened in or near the middle of the bundle, leaving the rest close from bulking. Now when you want to strike it down to prize, the tails of the tobacco will be high in order, whilst the inner part of the bundle which was pressed by bulking, will be dry, or comparatively so, (i. e.) your tobacco will be unequally in order. Remember, when I recommend re-hanging the two bundles at once, or the one bundle, that they have neither been bulked, because if you are re-hanging tobacco which has been bulked, it would be better to open the bundle.

Ask the farmers if they never mean to leave off burning plant patches in sobby, wet, low land. Last year I had patches on the steepest hill sides, and made plants for myself and one of my neighbors, who, in the general failure of plants, was without. Burn on hill sides and cover very thick.

Your obedient servant,

M. M. HARRISON.

LECTURES ON AGRICULTURE.

We observe by a notice in the Cultivator that Dr. Lee, of Buffalo, has been employed by the New York State Agricultural Society to make a tour of the State, for the purpose of collecting agricultural information. He will at the same time deliver lectures, occasionally, upon the subject of agricultural improvement.

This is an excellent plan; agricultural journals are doing a great deal to rouse public attention, but a competent individual to address the people in person would do much more; thousands will attend a meeting and listen with pleasure to an interesting address, that could never be persuaded to take a paper or read a book.

We have often expressed the opinion that the true way to make a good agricultural paper, is for the Editor to visit the farmers in person, and

retail the information that all, even the most practical, are ready to communicate *verbally*. In our own case, we know that no part of our work has given more satisfaction to our readers, than the notes we have been enabled to make on such excursions. With the opening of spring we hope to renew our visits, for they are as agreeable to us as they are profitable to our readers.

RAISING EARLY CUCUMBERS.

H. G. Dickerson, of Lyons, Wayne county, New York, one of the most successful cultivators of garden vegetables, adopts the following mode of raising early cucumbers. He makes his hot-bed at the usual time, and when the soil is placed upon the stack of manure, pieces of turf are placed just below the surface, on which the seed are planted. If the grass of this turf is alive, it is to be put upside downwards. On the arrival of warm weather, and when the soil in the open air becomes fit for cultivation, these pieces of turf are removed entire, with the young plants upon them, and placed in highly manured ground where they are finally to grow. In this way the roots are taken up without the least mutilation, consequently no check is given to their growth. Afterwards, whenever there is any probability of a night frost, each hill is covered with a bell glass. These glasses have a small opening at top, which prevents the sun scorching the plants in case they are not removed in time; they are obtained at the glass-works in the neighborhood, for four cents a piece; but where they cannot be had, boxes with panes inserted, will answer nearly as well.

By this means, cucumbers fit for the table, were raised the past season, by the first of sixth month, (June.)—*Cultivator.*

We are requested by a correspondent to publish the following recipes, for the value of which he vouches under his proper name:

CURRANT WINE.

Let the currants be fully ripe and free from all leaves, weeds, insects, decayed or defective fruit; break and press out the juice, and to every gallon of the juice add two gallons of water, and to every gallon of the mixture add three and a quarter pounds of brown sugar, one gill of brandy, and one-quarter of an ounce alum pulverized, mix well, and put into a cask. This wine is fit for use in a short time, and when mellowed by age, is equal to the best sherry.

TO CLARIFY HONEY.

After dripping or squeezing the honey from the comb, put it into a small-mouthed vessel, such as a carboy, or jug, filling it full, in twenty-four hours the small particles of comb, &c., will rise to the top, which must be taken off and the vessel again filled, and so on, until the process is finished.

From the American Agriculturist.

BAKED BEANS.

Shall I give your readers a hint or two for a very homely, but even to epicures sometimes, a very palatable dish if properly prepared? Carefully select and soak your beans the night before you wish them for the table; wash them thoroughly the next morning, and put them over the fire to simmer immediately after breakfast. When they have come to a boil, drain them carefully through a cullender, then add fresh hot water from the tea-kettle, with a suitable piece of salt pork, and let them boil slowly till quite soft. Place the beans, with the liquor in which they were boiled, in a deep baking dish with the pork in the centre. The latter must first be neatly cut through the rind in cross strips a third of an inch in diameter. Bake them two hours in a moderate oven, or if you prefer the orthodox Connecticut mode, bake in a brick oven with your bread, &c. They may remain in all night with advantage. PROSA.

For the Southern Planter.

CHICKENS AND DUCKS.

Mr. Editor,—I number myself among those of your correspondents, who love "*fried chicken.*" We have been very successful in raising chickens at some of our former places of residence, but have had little or no success with them at our present abode. Hence my attention has been called to the cause of the disease among them, which so often proves fatal, and which has been the great difficulty with us. I will suggest what I conceive is one *general* cause of failure, and which may be easily remedied. It is the almost universal custom among domestic ladies (who control such matters) to endeavor to excel in turning out the greatest number early in the spring; to effect which, they keep double as many hens in the same house and yard as they should do; being well fed they lay and set *early*, and though she may boast of turning out much the largest number early, it is very seldom the same lady can brag of sending many to market, or of bringing them to the table. I would further suggest that the number of hens be reduced half, or have another house and separate them, and that all the first eggs be used or carried to market except by those persons whose location is on a warm southern exposure, or near some woods exposed to mornings sun. Such persons may, with care and attention, succeed well with early chickens, but rarely otherwise. In com-

mon locations, the last of April or first of May is early enough for a full raising.

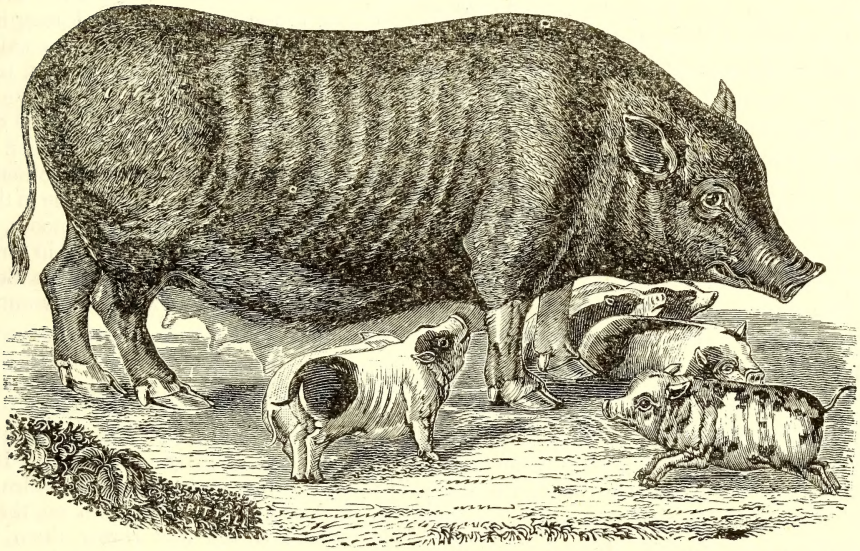
If I am correct in my view, (and I think I am,) we shall not only have double the number of chickens, but many more eggs.

As we have failed in chickens, we have turned our attention to ducks. Last spring we had a pretty good supply, and find them good for the table; that is, both the Muscova and puddle ducks. Seeing it recommended in the Planter to permit chickens to have the run of the garden, we trained about forty ducks to this habit, and found them much more dexterous than chickens in catching insects, and they neither scratch nor wallow as chickens do, to the injury and destruction of the vegetables. They interrupt nothing until late in the fall, when they will commence pecking cabbages; then they may be turned out, and no danger of their flying in again, as chickens do.

W. TIMBERLAKE.

Belle-Air, Jan. 22, 1845.

SIAMESE SOW.



We have here a very spirited cut, copied from "Low's Illustrations," of the Siamese, or China hog. It is by the cross of the small, compact, Eastern hog upon the large open roomy swine of Western Europe, that we have derived the improved breeds of modern days. At the head of these different varieties, in point of fashion and public favor, the "Berkshire" has, until lately, stood unrivalled. This stock was undoubtedly obtained by crossing the large, reddish, well made boar of the county of Berkshire, in England, upon just such a sow as graces our columns, and in the playful litter with which she is surrounded may be seen the blended beauties of sire and dam.

The violence of public prejudice against the Berkshire stock, which has been exactly in proportion to the exaggeration of its merits, has sufficiently subsided to enable us to address a word of reason to our readers on the subject.

There are strong reasons for thinking that the stock to which we have alluded above, known in this country and in England as the "Berkshire," possesses, in a remarkable degree, those qualities which are most estimable in this species of domestic animals. Why then is the current of testimony in this country, especially in this Southern country, so adverse to their claims? Simply because we have erred egregiously in our experiments with it. If a valuable stock be created by judicious crossing, it can only be perpetuated by judicious selection. It is a well known fact that not more than one individual in a hundred is calculated to propagate the choicest properties of his race; therefore, to keep a stock up to high water mark, not more than one indi-

vidual in a hundred ought to be thrown into the breeding stud. But what was the course pursued with the Berkshire hogs on this side the water, even supposing that only the best were imported? Were they not every one, little runts and all, sold for ten dollars a piece, to be indiscriminately used for propagation? Is not here sufficient reason for degeneracy and final worthlessness, even if they had originally possessed all the virtues that were claimed for them by their warmest admirers?

We have endeavored to show why the general denunciation of the unfortunate Berkshire should not of itself entirely expel him from the farmer's regards. We will now give our reasons for thinking that this stock is probably entitled to more favor than it is likely to meet, for some time at least, from the prejudiced state of the public mind. In the first place, it at one time undoubtedly enjoyed an unrivalled reputation amongst the most experienced and judicious farmers, both in Europe and America. We can hardly think that such a reputation could have been obtained without foundation. Secondly, We know one gentleman in the county of Henrico, and another in the county of Albemarle, who have the finest, thriftiest, and best formed hogs we ever saw; they have thoroughly stood the test of time, and are considered by their owners, both judicious and experienced men, as superior to any others they ever saw.—They are both *Berkshires*, and both obtained, we believe, from proper representatives of the race; which happened by chance in the general scramble to fall into their hands. Indeed the gentleman in Albemarle made three separate Northern purchases of Berkshire hogs, and it was only in one of the last that he found any of the coveted properties of the race. But for that one, his testimony would have been added to the general voice which denies their superiority to the common stock of the country.

We confess that our own prejudices have been excited by the general outcry against this stock; but since the facts stated above have come to our knowledge, we thought we might have done the Berkshire injustice, and are not ashamed to make the *amende honorable* even to a hog.

Talking about hogs, we extract the following paragraph from a letter lately received from Mr. C. N. Bement, of Albany:

"The demand for blood or fancy stock has been quite limited; very few sales, and those at reduced prices. Berkshire hogs seem to be among the things that have been. I have had but one order for them this year, and that I could not fill.

"Being fond of experiments and change, I have attempted to make a breed of hogs, by crossing, &c., keeping in view certain points and qualities, and have succeeded in producing a variety which, for the want of a better name, I will call by way of distinction, the 'Medley breed.' In size, they will rank third, but for quietness, docility, and easy keep, they will rank among the first, and with a given quantity of food, will make more pork than any other breed I have ever had. In color they are generally white, sometimes a black spot or so. They have all the good qualities of the Berkshire, without the bad ones. They are small, and short in the leg; round and long in body; head of medium size, nose though small a little long. Their ordinary weight at from twelve to eighteen months old, will vary from two to three hundred pounds, depending upon the care bestowed on them when young. When slaughtered, their appearance exceeds any other offered, and will command the highest price in this market; skin very thin, white and smooth, like the human. Hams large and heavy in proportion to the body, and some fatter than the Berkshire. In short, where great size is not wanted, they are *the hog*."

BOILING POTATOES.

Not one housekeeper out of ten knows how to boil potatoes properly. Here is an Irish method, one of the best we know. Clean wash the potatoes and leave the skin on, then bring the water to a boil and throw them in. As soon as boiled soft enough for a fork to be easily thrust through them, dash some cold water into the pot, let the potatoes remain two minutes, and then pour off the water. This done, half remove the pot lid, and let the potatoes remain over a slow fire till the steam is evaporated, then peel and set them on the table in an *open* dish. Potatoes of a good kind thus cooked, will always be sweet, dry, and mealy. A covered dish is bad for potatoes, as it keeps the steam in, and makes them soft and watery.—*American Agriculturist.*

PLOUGHING CORN.

We have received a communication from an intelligent correspondent in North Carolina, in which he insists upon the advantages of the plan of ploughing alternate rows; a plan which has been very strenuously recommended from the same section of country in previous numbers

of the Planter. This plan consists simply in skipping every other row at each ploughing; of course taking care to plough out those rows the second time that were omitted the first.—The advantages of this method our correspondent conceives to be the following: 1st. You meet the vicissitudes of the season by having one row in condition for wet, and the other for dry weather.(*a*.) 2d. The land will not wash so badly with one row hard (comparatively) and the other freshly broken (*b*.) 3d. You can tend much more land with the same team, because the corn would wait much longer, worked on one side for a return to it, than if not worked at all.(*c*.) 4th. It is much easier for a hand to work when walking in the comparatively firm row, than when walking or freshly ploughed ground.

[We know that the plan recommended by our correspondent is strenuously advocated by some experienced and successful corn growers, and it may be that the failure to appreciate its advantages arise, rather, from our ignorance than its want of merit. If we are wrong, we shall be glad to be corrected.]

COOKING FOOD FOR SWINE.

In an article on Pork Making, in a late number of the New England Farmer, Dr. Lee says: From some experiments of my own, and considerable research into the published results of the experience of others, I am satisfied that ten bushels of boiled potatoes, thoroughly mixed with the pudding that can be made from three bushels of corn or peas, will make as much pork as twenty bushels of potatoes, and six bushels of corn or peas fed raw. It is, indeed, gratifying to find that throughout the entire length and breadth of our country, the expression of popular sentiment is annually becoming more and more decided as regards the practice of economizing food by cooking. The calculation made by Dr. Lee, though it will, in all probability, be doubted by some, will yet appear reasonable to every one who has any knowledge of the practice to which it refers. Our own experience has long since convinced us that, to feed uncooked food of any kind, to hogs or other animals, while undergoing the "*fattening process*," is a sheer waste of at least one-fourth the materials demanded. We hope our farmers in Maine will examine this subject critically, and act, hereafter, as their own reason, uninfluenced by long-cherished prejudices, shall decide.—*Maine Cult.*

(*a*) We have never seen that vicissitude of weather that a foul, hard, unploughed row of corn was calculated to meet.—Ed.

(*b*) We do not see exactly the force of this argument. Surely a ploughed row will not wash the less for having an unploughed row on each side of it: indeed, if the unploughed row is hard and baked, the probability is, that the rain that falls upon it will run off into the loose earth of the ploughed row, and double the tendency to wash.—Ed.

(*c*) When a large field of corn imperiously demands the use of the plough, and there is fear that the last part of it may suffer before it is reached in the ordinary way, we have frequently known the order given, to turn a furrow on each side of the corn, leaving the middle of the row to be cleaned out afterwards. This is a better plan, of ploughing a width and skipping one, we think, than the one recommended by our correspondent.—Ed.

PATENT OFFICE REPORT.

The following notice of a valuable document has been prepared by a friend; he has, by our permission and request, adopted the editorial style:

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents, for the year 1844, *being Document* 78, *House of Representatives*, 29*th Congress*, 2*d Session: pp.* 520.

In the name and behalf of the people generally, and particularly of the agricultural community, we beg leave to tender our thanks to the Hon. Mr. Ellsworth, of the Patent Office, for his most valuable Annual Report. Our Representatives, in the National Legislature, have contributed, we doubt not, much to advance the "general welfare," by ordering an unusually large number of this Document to be printed.—The extraordinary demand for its "illustrious predecessor," (the Report of 1843,) induced an enterprising publisher to meet the wishes of the public by a large private edition: we hope the people generally may have similar opportunities of obtaining and reading the Document now before us.

We have to regret that our limits will not allow even a *condensed abstract* of this valuable report. It will be seen that it is very voluminous, occupying more than five hundred pages. Confining our notice to the agricultural matter, chiefly, we note a part of the interesting and important facts embraced in the report. The husbandman will not only be richly repaid, by the entertainment afforded by a perusal of the report itself, (as also the artisan,) but he will find much to encourage him in his good work.

The Commissioner omits no proper occasion to pay a just tribute to those, who are rendering valuable aid to agriculture, by their investigations in science. Accompanying his report will be found entertaining and practical extracts from the "Principles of Agriculture," by the celebrated Von Thaer, evincing deep research and patient investigation. He also gives us many valuable facts, furnished by eminent farmers, adding to the great mass of testimony in favor

of manure, draining, and *deep ploughing;* and in connexion with draining the great benefits of subsoiling, which in many cases has been successfully substituted for draining. The cheapness of subsoil ploughs brings them within the reach of most farmers.

We hasten (omitting many facts mentioned, for want of space,) to a glance at the tabular statement and appendices of the report. We note the following facts in regard to Virginia productions from the tabular estimates of the crops of 1844; and also annex references from the last year's report, to the crop of 1843, to show the difference:

	Crop of 1843	*Crop of* 1844	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
Wheat,	9,004,359	10,805,000 bush.	1,800,641	
Oats,	12,879,878	14,812,000 "	1,932,122	
Corn,	45,836,788	38,960,000 "		6,876,788
Tobacco,	41,918,040	33,574,000 lbs.		3,344,040

Mr. E. accompanies the tabular estimates with very interesting remarks, on the influence of the seasons in the amount of productions of the year; and as the result of the vast amount of information collected, from every part of the Union, and taking into consideration the seasons and other operating causes, he thinks, that, on the whole, there was no sensible diminution in many of the most important crops.

From the Commissioner's observations on particular crops we gather the following facts:

Wheat.—The aggregate amount of the crop of 1844, in the whole country, is a little less than that of 1843, though in Virginia the increase was about twenty per cent. The increasing ravages of the *Hessian fly*, threatening every year seriously to lessen the wheat crop, induced Mr. E. to procure from Mr. Herrick, of Yale College, an able paper on this insect and its habits. Mr. H. (who has devoted much time and attention to this subject, and who, our readers perhaps know, is distinguished for his accurate investigations,) gives a very minute account of the fly and its history, ravages and habits, and examines various remedial measures which have been proposed. He entertains the decided conviction, from long observation and *practice*, that *burning the stubble immediately after harvest and ploughing the land* is the most practicable and effectual mode of exterminating this insect. We wish it was in our power to give the whole of this able paper. To destroy the *weevil*, all the remedies suggested have reference to modes of keeping the wheat *completely dry* and immediate grinding, before the *sweat* takes place. Kiln and other modes of drying are mentioned. To prevent *smut* various remedies are suggested. Steeping the seed in a very strong solution of glauber salts (sulphate of soda)—in a strong solution of bluestone (one pound to water enough to cover five bushels of wheat)—leaving seed wheat six days in the field, after harvest, with early sowing. These several remedies are highly commended by eminent farmers. Gen. Harmon, of New York, furnishes a valuable paper on "Varieties of Wheat."—Passing over the remaining observations of the Commissioner on wheat, as also on oats, barley and buckwheat, we proceed to his remarks in relation to the cultivation of

Corn.—The crop of this year, in consequence of drought chiefly, has been less, in the whole Union than that of 1843. The appendix to the report contains many valuable papers on the mode of cultivation and the varieties of this favorite and important crop, which we cannot find space even to condense. We note, however, some practical observations from Mr. V. Ellsworth, showing conclusively the great benefit of fall and *deep ploughing*. He used the subsoil plough. His land yielded 121 bushels of shelled corn to the acre. He, of course, manured well. By experiment, it appears that corn, suffering from drought, is much improved by applying a pint of ashes to the hill. Broom-corn seed, Mr. E. says, is excellent for fattening sheep. A South Carolina Agricultural Society furnishes an essay showing the value of corn sown for fodder, affording good and substantial food easily and cheaply obtained. Farmers are cautioned against the too free use of saltpetre in preparation of seed; when too much is used the kernels are reddish and decayed.

Potatoes—The Commissioner's observations on the modes of planting, the quality and selection of seed, and diseases of potatoes are very extended. Several important papers are furnished, occupying more than fifty pages of the appendix, mainly on the new disease, (the Rot,) which has so materially diminished this crop.—We cannot too highly commend this part of this document.

Hay.—The Bermuda grass (whether the same that bears the name among us is yet uncertain) is being introduced in our country and will be a valuable grass to Virginia. As to the time of cutting grass, it appears, in the opinion of a New Yorker, that at the period between the blossoming stage and the hardening of the seed, the grass contains more of the nutritive properties, and ought to be cut. The generally received opinion of successful graziers is that the more moisture the hay contains, *without danger of combustion*, the better. This moisture must be, however, "*the arterial juice of the grass*," not of dew or moisture from absorption. The juice *never* causes mould. In Orange county, New York, about the 1st August the grass is cut in the morning and mowed in the afternoon, and often put in cock early in the day, to prevent its being dry and brittle. Hay is best preserved when, on being opened, is of a light mahogany or foxy color, and lies very compactly in the stack or mow. The above observations are from a New York farmer.

Tobacco.—Although the Commissioner's ta-

bular estimate shows a decrease in this crop, it should be remembered, that its quality is much better than many previous crops, and there can be no doubt that the income derived from the sales will be much more than from the receipts for the crop of 1843. Mr. E. expresses the opinion, that China will open a considerable sale for tobacco, as the milder kinds are profitable. The Chinese, it appears, use immense quantities of their own raising; it is, however, of a very inferior quality. The captains and crews of ships find a ready sale for the small quantities taken out by them. The remaining observations of Mr. Ellsworth (being chiefly extracts from Dr. Gardner's Essays) have already appeared in this journal—and the communication of our worthy correspondent, Dr. Venable, of Lunenburg, on the remedy to prevent the fly, is copied in the report of the Commissioner of Patents.

Cotton.—The reader will find much valuable matter on this crop, its cultivation, &c.; also, a communication on cotton beds, their great value and cheapness; and an able article from a Liverpool journal on the Liverpool cotton market of 1844.

We pass over, necessarily, the portions of the report devoted to rice, sugar and silk.

That portion of the report devoted to "other products for cultivation" embraces a great variety of subjects. We will notice a few facts which may interest our readers.

Madder.—The increasing demand for this production, its adaptation to the soil of a large section of our country, and the high price it yields, offer inducements for its cultivation. The prices for madder range, according to a late Liverpool price-current from £3 to £4, and madder roots about £4 9s. The minimum rate in New York is fifteen cents per pound. An experienced individual thinks that the best Mississippi bottoms would yield 3,000 lbs. per acre, making about $450 in the three years usually allowed for the roots. More than one million of dollars are paid abroad annually for madder. A full account of its mode of cultivation will be found in the appendix to the report.

The reader will find much profitable information with regard to the cultivation of mustard, indigo, root crops, pumpkins, melons, strawberries, celery, &c., all of which we have not even space to notice.

Under the head of "preparation of soil, seed, &c." the Commissioner notices the various experiments on the preparation of seed by steeps, and the quantity of seed to be sown, giving a practical and well prepared paper from a foreign journal, showing the injury and waste of grain from too thick sowing. The benefits of *subsoil ploughing*, from repeated experiments, are enforced. It is known that below the upper soil is another, composed of different chemical elements, and in various combinations. It may often be, therefore, that by bringing up the subsoil, the very constituents which are deficient in the upper, may be thus supplied, or the excess in that may be neutralized in this. By deep ploughing and turning up the subsoil and thus loosening the earth, the benefits to the plant (the roots of some extend far) will be obvious.

Much curious and interesting matter is given on the value and application of guano, and other manures. This portion of the report is not as valuable as that of last year, in our judgment.

Many experiments and their results on feeding horses, cattle and other animals are given. On the subject of fattening animals the result of the various experiments are embraced in the following particulars, as it appears to us: 1st. The animals should be warm and quiet. 2d. The food should be prepared (by steaming or cooking) so as to be most easily digested. 3d. Mix the food, and remember that the more oil in the food, the faster the animal will fatten—though too much might make the meat soft.

In passing, we observe the following directions for preparing land for *squashes* (cymlins): take well rotted manure, mix with it ashes, slacked lime, and a little sprinkling of fine salt; mix well and put about a spadeful to the hill: the salt and lime destroy the slugs, worms, &c.

* * * * *

We find that in the short space of one year 69 patents have been granted for applications pertaining to agriculture (including instruments and operations.) Among them are patents for ploughs, cultivators, potato-digging instruments, &c. Also an improvement has been made in grain cradles, by making the teeth of hollow metal, filling them with wood sufficient to insure strength. The teeth glide easily through the grain, and do not warp. Wheat-fans are improved by the use of the spiral fan in place of the flutter wheel fan. Patents have been granted to modes of operating screens or sieves so as to give the motion imparted to them when used in the hand.

Should this hasty notice of a portion of this valuable report induce any of our readers to procure it (either the Government or other editions) and *induce them to read it*, we should take pleasure in the thought that we had thus rendered them service. The report, by the way, would form a valuable addition to our annual volume, and being thus bound up with it, would make a good size volume.

Should we find space for further notice of this document, we hope to transfer extracts from it to the pages of the Planter. W.

March 4, 1845.

Candles may be made to burn their own wicks by saturating them with a strong solution of

nitre, and then thoroughly drying them. The cause of the wicks of candles refusing to burn is, that the air cannot get access to them. The nitre, however at a high temperature, will supply oxygen enough for this purpose.—*Selected.*

SYSTEM OF FARMING IN WESTERN NEW YORK.

We are indebted to some friend at the North for a little pamphlet containing a report of the Transactions of the Monroe Agricultural Society and an address from Dr. Lee, of Buffalo. The address, though short, is replete with the practical science for which this gentleman is remarkable.

Amongst other matter we find here a report from a committee on farms. This committee was composed of some of the first farmers in Western New York; amongst them we see the name of Gen. Harmon, the gentleman so distinguished for his success in the cultivation of wheat. We, therefore, extract the following introductory remarks as a sound exposition of the views of the best farmers in Western New York:

The committee will proceed briefly to state what they consider a good, judicious, and successful system for conducting a farm, and what state of preparation and rotation of crops it is necessary to pursue, to come up to that point of excellence which should be the perfection of the art; and those whose exertions come nearest to that course will, consequently, be the successful competitors for their favors.

Let a farm, consisting of any number of acres, not too large—say, for example, one hundred acres of arable land, independent of wood lands, orchard, and garden—be in the first place well fenced, if with rails, well staked and ridered; or what is better, with corner stakes and yokes, the yokes placed at two or three rails from the top, in which case the stakes need not be set in the earth; or what is better still, where there is a sufficiency of stones, let the fences be made with them, and it can hardly be conceived, by those unacquainted with the process, how small and inferior an article will make a good and lasting fence, merely by the plentiful use of cedar, pine, or chestnut sticks laid in crossways with the stone, always reserving a sufficient qantity of stone to cope the wall, and form a cap, to cover and retain the whole line. Divide the whole into such sized fields as shall comport with the size of the farm, and in such a manner as will allow it always to be nearly equally divided into a three-course rotation. The fences to be clear from weeds, brambles, and shrubs, and of a sufficient height to protect against all depredation: for there is no better opiate to induce good nature, and calm and uninterrupted sleep at night, than good strong and high fences. If there are any low or springy lands, let them be thoroughly open, or under-drained—underdraining is by far the most convenient, safe, and economical.

The barns should be large, with an underground basement, if possible; sheds and stables, large and roomy enough to house every hoof on the farm; barn yards not too large, with water handy; a piggery, with boiling apparatus; and proper protection and fixtures for the sheep; with a well built, snug, and convenient house; an industrious wife, not too handsome; a kitchen and flower garden; a well chosen fruitery, and orchard—and that is what this committee would consider a *pretty smart chance* of a beginning.—Now, we would propose that there should be a flock of sheep, of a *hardy*, *fine-wooled* variety if for the fleece, or of a large-framed, long-wooled variety if for the carcass—as an indispensable requisite to commence with, not only as to profit from themselves, but as an important element in wheat husbandry. A greater profit will be realized from the sale of the wool and carcass than is lost to the farm by the food they consume, as their manure is the perfection of food for the wheat plant, and, from its intimate division and distribution, it is in a better state to feed the young plant than any other, except, perhaps, the artificial compounds.

The true wheat farmer should have no more cows, oxen, or horses, than are necessary to carry on the farm, and subsist the family—and those of the very best breeds. It must be very bad economy to be obliged always to keep half the farm in pasture and meadow, merely for the sake of keeping a great herd of cows; coupled with the privilege of foddering twenty or more tons of hay, and making a few pounds of butter, to sell at eight cents per pound, the marketing of which costs more than its produce.

We would premise, that a farm, when it is right, should not have one square foot but what is arable, and capable of producing any crop put upon it; and as nearly as convenient, always to have one-third in wheat, one-third or more in clover and grass, and one-third or less in summer crops. Now let us explain the *modus operandi:* It is now spring—one-third in wheat, properly seeded; one-third or more in meadow and pasture; and such portion of the other third as shall be convenient fall-ploughed, for summer crops, which is to be devoted to oats, corn, potatoes, bagas, wurtzel, carrots, &c.—on which is to be expended the fresh barn-yard manure made the winter previous, or so much as is needed, and the balance composted, for dressing the summer fallow. All of the oat, corn, and potato ground, or so much as the season

will admit, should be sown with wheat, after the crops come off; if any lays over, it may be sown the next spring with peas or barley, and followed with wheat.

The manure which was applied to the summer crops, is now in the best possible state for producing wheat, having lost its fermentative quality, and, by rotting, ploughing, and working, has become thoroughly divided and mixed with the soil, and is in a better state to promote the production of the wheat berry than in any other shape that it can be applied. So much of the summer crop and enough of the grass in pasture to make about one-third of the arable land, comes into wheat each year. This course of cropping gives but a small portion of mowing land, after providing pasturage for the sheep and neat stock; yet, with the judicious use of the root crops, and the straw from the wheat and oats, a very small quantity of hay need be used before the first of April, and yet the whole farm stock be kept in as good order as those to which is fed a ton and half per head; by which course a great amount of land is relieved, for the grand desideratum of the wheat crop.

The meadows and part of the pasture of this year, become the summer fallow of the next; and this year's stubble, properly seeded, becomes the meadow and pasture of the succeeding season.

This course your committee consider the best, safest, and most profitable, taking into consideration the importance of keeping the soil in good heart and productiveness, and in a state of improvement, rather than impoverishing it. Yet there are some good and judicious farmers who, occasionally, where a field throws heavy to straw, follow with two or more crops of wheat alternately. When clover succeeds well, and the ground is free from weeds and foul grasses, we have known this course to succeed well, even with once ploughing, but it is a course, generally speaking, more to be deprecated than praised.

Another course is pursued, by some of our best farmers, who prefer to let all the manured summer-crop land lie over to the next season, and take off a crop of barley or peas, and follow with wheat. The committee incline to the opinion, that this course must nearly or quite exhaust and neutralize all the virtue of the previous year's manuring, and have a tendency to keep the land in a situation not improved for the wheat crop, if not losing in its qualifications to produce, for any length of time, a certain and profitable return.

Another course, pursued by equally judicious farmers, is to take a four-year course rotation, by allowing all the seeded ground to lie two full years in clover. The first year it is mowed and pastured, and the second year it is mowed or pastured till about the first of June, then plastered, and at the proper time cut for clover seed; the year after, mowed or pastured till the first week in June, when it is turned under for the summer fallow, for wheat. This course, on large farms, with a heavy stock of cattle and sheep, (as it allows more hay and pasture than the three-year course,) is a very successful method; and even for those of a medium size, may suit well for some particular soils; and perhaps in those cases where the management for saving and increasing the manure is not skilfully and judiciously performed, this is a safe course, if one-quarter of the arable land gives a sufficient quantity of acres in wheat:

The three-year course, in three divisions—Field A.

1841 ..... in wheat, seeded.
1842 ..... in meadow, pasture and summer crops.
1843–4 ..... in wheat.

The four-year course, in four divisions—Field A.

1840 ..... in wheat, seeded.
1841 ..... in meadow and pasture.
1842 .... in meadow, clover-seed, and sumer crops.
1843–4 ..... again in wheat.

But whatever course an enterprising and thinking farmer may pursue, if he has a system and plan of proceeding, and pursues it constantly, he will soon come to a result as to what process is best adapted to his soil. Without regularity, system, and a code of rules and reasons, no course will succeed, nor any valuable result be reached. It is said, that bad habits, regularly followed, are not so pernicious to the human system as an irregular and mixed course of life; and the remark is peculiarly applicable to the arts of husbandry. We say—*system! system! system!* and follow it, good or bad, and conviction must follow, by comparison with others pursuing a different course.

The committee can conceive of no better system of farming than that of 100 acres of arable land, (or double or treble that amount, if you please,) of which one-third, say 33 acres, is put into wheat, producing from 800 to 1,000 bushels; with 100 to 150 fine-wooled sheep, producing from 300 to 500 pounds of wool, worth from 40 to 50 cents per pound; and the balance of the land in grass and summer crops, every item of which should be consumed on the farm, to subsist the family, hired help, and farm stocks, and, perhaps, to help to pay mechanics; all the offal, hay, straw, and roots, going to increase the manure heap, which, with a plentiful use of plaster and clover, will more than compensate for the wheat and wool substracted from the soil, and sold.

For the Southern Planter.

Ridgway Depot, Warren Co., N. C.
February 8, 1845.

Mr. Editor,—In looking over an old number of the American Farmer, a short time since, I stumbled upon an excellent table, showing at a

glance the number of hills or plants contained in an acre of land at any given distance from each other, from 40 feet by 40 to 1 foot by 1.—Many of your subscribers, I know, would be much pleased to see that republished in your paper. The table may be found in the second volume of John S. Skinner's American Farmer, third edition, 1821, page 268. You will much oblige your subscribers in this region by inserting the above table in your next number.

I am, with great regard, yours,

M. H. S.

We have many subscribers who have taken the Planter from the beginning, and we are at a loss sometimes about repeating an article new to many of our readers, and valuable in itself, which others of our friends have already received in the back numbers of the paper. In the third volume we published, not exactly the table referred to by our correspondent, because we believe it is not correct, but one that may be relied on; we copy it in compliance with his request:

For the Southern Planter.

A TABLE,

Showing the number of corn hills and other plants in an acre of ground.

Feet.	Feet.	No. of Hills.	Feet.	Feet.	No. of Hills.
20	by 20	108	5	by 4	2,178
19	by 19	120	5	by 3	2,904
18	by 18	134	5	by 2	4,356
17	by 17	150	5	by 1	8,712
16	by 16	170	4½	by 4½	2,151
15	by 15	192	4	by 4	2,722
14	by 14	222	4	by 3	3,630
13	by 13	257	4	by 2	5,445
12	by 12	302	4	by 1	10,890
11	by 11	360	3½	by 3½	3,555
10	by 10	435	3	by 3	4,840
9	by 9	537	3	by 2	7,260
8	by 8	680	3	by 1	14,520
7	by 7	888	2½	by 2½	6,969
6	by 6	1210	2	by 2	10,890
6	by 5½	1320	2	by 1	21,780
5½	by 5½	1417	1	by 1	43,560
5	by 5	1742			

MENDING A TREE.

The Boston Cultivator says, "We saw at Isaac Frost's, Newton, a tolerably large apple-tree that had the bark eaten all around by mice, some years ago, and of course would have died, without some extra pains to save it. Mr. Frost set about a dozen scions in the tree, one end in the green bark and wood below, and the other above the wound. They all took at both ends and grew well, except one, which took only at the bottom, and is forming a little tree by itself. The scions are now about two inches in diameter and are touching each other. The tree is in a fine flourishing condition."

VIRGINIA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We publish with great pleasure the following resolutions from the Agricultural Club of Nansemond. For the honor done us individually in the passage of the last resolution, we thank the Club most sincerely, and assure them that nothing will give us greater pleasure than to partake of their hospitality, upon the day appointed:

Extracts from the Proceedings of the Chuckatuck Agricultural Visiting Club, convened at Cherry Grove, (residence of General John C. Crump,) March 12th, 1845—R. H. B. Denson in the chair.

Whereas, in consideration of the impulse to be given, and the great advantages that will accrue to the agricultural interests of the State, by the establishment of a permanent State Agricultural Society, and most heartily approving the proceedings of the Convention recently held in the city of Richmond,

On motion of Dr. William Shepherd,

Resolved, unanimously, That this Club will by every reasonable effort promote the views and objects thereof.

On motion of Joseph Bunch, Esq.

Resolved, unanimously, That the members of this Club being agriculturists, and deeming agriculture of primary interest and importance, will not support any individual as a representative in the Legislature who does not manifest a lively and abiding concern in the farming interests of the State.

On motion of Dr. Joseph N. Atkinson,

Resolved, unanimously, That it be recommended to the citizens of each county of this Commonwealth, to petition the Legislature at its next session, to make a reasonable appropriation in aid of said Society.

On motion of Joseph Bunch, Esq.

Resolved, unanimously, That the Southern Planter, together with the different newspapers and public journals of the State, be requested to publish the above.

On motion of Gen. J. C. Crump,

Resolved, unanimously, That Mr. Charles T. Botts be, and is hereby constituted an honorary member of this Club, and that he be earnestly solicited to attend a meeting thereof on the second Wednesday in May next, at Stockley, (the residence of D. H. Hatton, Esq.)

D. H. HATTON, *Cor. Sec'y*
Chuckatuck Agricultural Visiting Club.

March 12, 1845.

From the Genesee Farmer.

PARSNIP WINE.

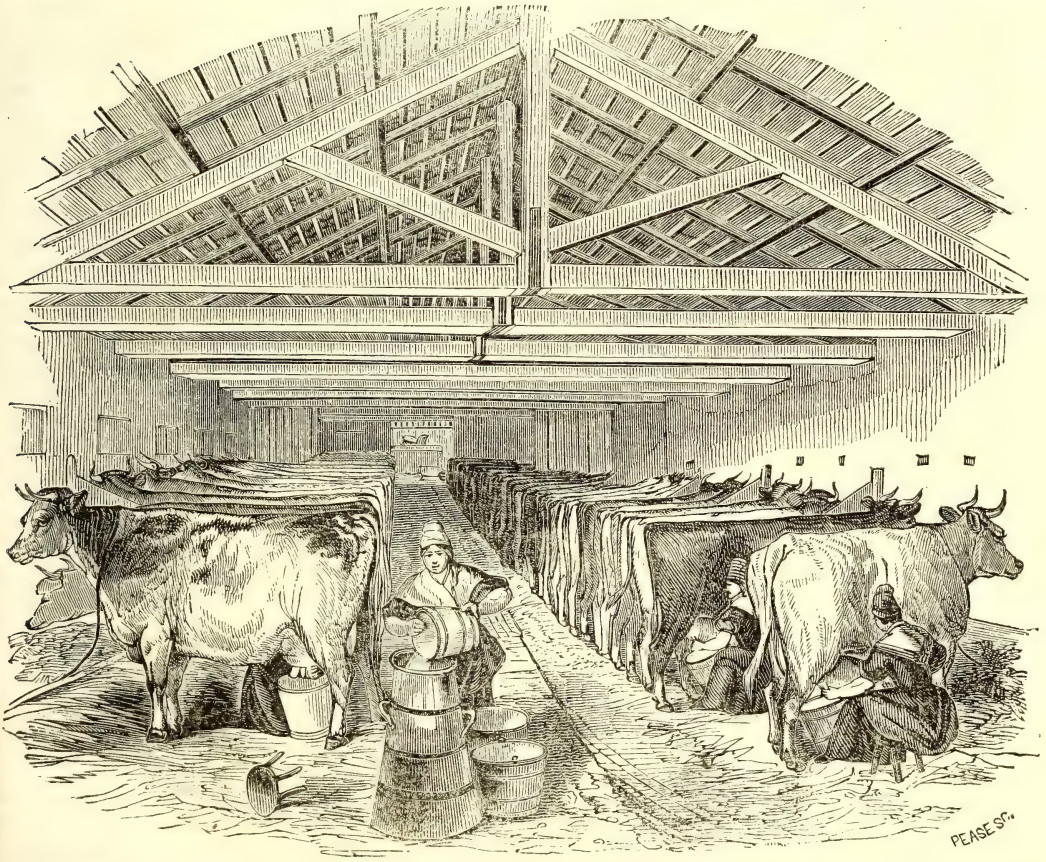
Wine made of parsnips approaches closely to the malmsey of Madeira, and is made with very little expense or trouble, and is wholesome and palatable.

To every four pounds of parsnips, clean and quartered, put one gallon of water; boil till quite tender; drain them over a sieve, but do not bruise them, as no process will clear the liquor afterwards. Pour the liquor into an open vessel, and to each gallon add three pounds of sugar, and half an ounce of cream of tartar. When cooled to about blood heat, put a little new yeast, or emptyings; let it stand four or five days in a warm room, then put it into a cask, and when the fermentation has subsided, bung tight, and let it stand eight to twelve months before using.

The months of April and May are the best for getting a good fermentation; and in these temperance times it is an experiment worth trying.

N. A. A.

MILKING SHED.



The engraving represents one of the milking sheds, numbers of which are to be found in or about the purlieus of the great city of London.

There is probably no part of the world in which the profitable products of the dairy are so much neglected as in Virginia. We have lately returned from a hasty visit to the county of Orange, which, like its namesake in the State of New York, ought to be distinguished for its butter and cheese. No lands upon the face of the earth could be better adapted to the growth of grass, and consequently to the raising of cattle, than the rich, loamy, chocolate soil of this beautiful county. It is a singular fact, that in the State of New York lands in Orange and Duchess, for dairy purposes, will bring from fifty to one hundred dollars per acre, whilst in the State of Virginia lands every way better adapted to the same purposes, can be bought for fifteen or

twenty. If the farmers in Duchess county were to know that here they could purchase for twenty dollars an acre farms in the healthiest region of the world, adorned with the most beautiful of mountain scenery, surrounded with the most polite and cultivated society, the soil an admirable mixture of clay and sand, upon which the growth of clover is almost indigenous, and where plaster acts like a charm, they would not remain in New York, nor would they purchase the thin, exhausted lands upon which they are settling in the county of Fairfax.

It has been the fashion in Virginia, possibly there may have been a time when circumstances justified it, for farmers to neglect all minor considerations for the cultivation of three or four great staples. But the day has come when the overproduction of these staples calls loudly for a diversion of labor. The products of the dairy in the shape of butter and cheese, promise to constitute very shortly no inconsiderable item in the list of American exports, whilst the home demand is almost unlimited. How is that home demand supplied in Virginia? We take the city of Richmond as the basis of our calculation.

Out of the thousands of pounds of American cheese that are annually sold in this market, not one pound is the product of our own soil. Yet are our farmers daily complaining of the unprofitable prices of corn, wheat, and tobacco.

Why then do you let the North furnish your own market with cheese at ten and twelve cents a pound, and get rich by doing so? We wish we had the data by which to ascertain how much the State of Virginia is good for to the cheese maker of New England. Is not the idea of such a country as this importing her cheese, or any other agricultural product, preposterous in the extreme; could such a state of things now exist but for the continuance of an old system long after the reasons upon which it was founded have ceased to exist?

Suppose a farmer in the county of Orange or Albemarle would say to his wife—here are twenty cows—go with me to the North, visit their dairies, learn the best mode of making cheese and butter, then come home and take to yourself the profits of your dairy. The lady's cows, in our opinion, would be more profitable than the gentleman's tobacco crop, and we wouldn't be at all surprised to see him borrowing from his wife before the end of the year.

In sober earnest, we sincerely hope that the defects in our dairy establishments, or rather the total want of such establishments, in Virginia, will soon be remedied. A love of comfort and a desire for profit equally demand improvement in this respect.

HEALTH AND COMFORT.

To prevent cold feet, wash them frequently, and rub them thoroughly with a coarse cloth; this removes obstructions from the pores, and produces a healthy state which is conducive to warmth. When the feet appear clean, the pores may be obstructed and the perspiration impeded so as to produce discomfort, and in some measure injure the health.

To prevent cold feet at night, in addition to the cleansing process, take off the stockings a short time before retiring, and with them rub the feet hard until they are not only warm, but begin to feel hot. This will greatly add to pleasure and health, which, in many cases, greatly depend on things which may to some appear trifling.

To keep the feet dry, use good stout boots or shoes, and stuff the leather, upper and lower, full of some waterproof composition. Tar is a good ingredient, as it will bend and not break. Two parts of tar, two of beef's tallow, and one of beeswax, make a good composition for boots and shoes. Apply it quite warm, and warm the leather, that it may penetrate. As farmers are generally exposed to wet, they should be careful to keep their feet dry and warm, for on this their health and comfort, in a good measure, depend.

There are many kinds of composition that are good to resist water, and preserve leather, and the proportions of the above may be varied. Tar and tallow will answer well alone; so will tallow and beeswax. Linseed oil is used as a good ingredient in water-proof composition.—Neat's foot oil is excellent and preserves the leather soft. Castor oil has been highly recommended for this purpose.—*American Agriculturist.*

INDIAN CORN.

We know of no authority more orthodox upon agricultural subjects than the accomplished writer and practical agriculturist who edits the American Farmer. From his pen we select the following article upon the engrossing topic of the season:

CORN PLANTING TIME—CORN CULTURE.

As the time has already arrived in many parts of our far-reaching country to plant corn, and in a few weeks more it will be time every where,

it may be opportune to throw out a few brief hints, not as to the best mode,—for every grower of this nutritious grain is, already, in possession of the *best* method of culture—but as mere suggestions as to what *we* consider a good plan to ensure a remunerating crop. To begin then at the beginning—he who expects to make his acres tell a tale of production that he need not be ashamed of, must lay himself out, in the *first place*, to put his ground in good condition, and this can only be effected by deep ploughing, and such pulverization, by harrowing and cross harrowing, as will make the tilth as fine as Ole Bull's fiddle. To expect the corn plant to grow and mature its fruit luxuriantly in a cloddy and half prepared soil, is just as unreasonable as would be the attempt to get up steam without fire. In the *second place*, unless his land be in a very high state of fertility, he must make arrangements to manure his corn ground with a liberal—nay, with a prodigal hand—for, of a truth, the corn plant is a most voracious feeder, and delights, like many a gormand, to luxuriate amidst gross viands of various compounds. In the *third place*, if he desires to assume the best chance of success, and ensure against the accidents of "flood and field," he should plant early. In the *fourth place*, he should be assiduous in working his crop from its first coming up, until he lays it by, in order that, in the race for the mastery, the *weeds* may always be kept down, and never for a day be permitted to rob the corn plants of any portion of the food which may be buried in earth, or floating in air. In a word, the earth should at all times be kept clean of weeds, and open to the influence of sun, air, dew and rain, agencies as essential to their growth as the best and most enriching manures.

We have recommended deep ploughing in the preparation of the soil for the reception of the seed, but far, very far, would we be from recommending deep ploughing after the plants arrive at any considerable height. Indeed, after the first working, we would abandon the plough altogether, and rely upon the cultivator, to be followed by careful hoemen to eradicate such weeds as may not be reached by the former implement; for notwithstanding many intelligent writers, as well as practical planters, contend that the *cutting of the roots* by the plough is beneficial, we cannot reconcile the practice to our notions and common sense view of things.—Nature intended the *roots* as the mediums of feeding, and every act of violence,—every separation—to which they may be subjected, must necessarily tend to retard their growth, because such treatment arrests that continuous absorption and elaboration of that portion of their food which is derived from the earth.

With regard to very large crops of corn we have a remark or two to make. It must be obvious, that, without *close planting*, no matter what the quality of the soil may be—no matter how notably the culture may be pursued—unless a sufficient number of stalks be grown upon an acre, the yield will always be more or less circumscribed, as without the *stalks* be on the earth they cannot produce ears of corn.

It should be an object with every corn grower to provide his corn ground with lime, plaster and ashes, as well as the nutritive manures, for unless there be *potash* in the soil to dissolve the sand, and form what is called the silicate of potash, the substance which comprises the *outer crust* of the cornstalk—vegetation cannot go on with that economy which leads to the fructification of the grain, as the stalks are mainly constituted of sand, reduced by the action of potash, into a fluid state, and thus taken up by the roots and distributed, so as to impart to it the capacity to stand erect and sustain its burthen.

Ten bushels of ashes and one of plaster, well mixed together, is sufficient for an acre, whether sowed broadcast, or used in, or on the top of each hill. We have sometimes thought that the best disposition to be made of ashes and plaster, would be, to compost them with the manure of the barn yard before hauling it out to be ploughed in; by such treatment, every part of the corn field would derive benefit from their application, instead of its being confined to the immediate vicinity of the hills.

The soaking of the seed of corn in a weak solution of *saltpetre*, or of *copperas*, before being planted, has a twofold good effect—it promotes early germination and prevents the depredations of worms and birds. We have used both soaks, and never without being impressed with the conviction of having derived advantage from each.

We have with decided good effect sown two bushels of salt, broadcast, on an acre of corn after it had come up. The effect as it manifested itself to us, was, to maintain, in one of the driest seasons we ever recollect to have experienced, a degree of moisture on the part where the salt was used, highly beneficial—to have preserved the blades green when those all around the salted part crumbled into powder on the slightest touch of the hand.

The remarks which we have made, are based upon the result of close observation, in an experience of some years, and we, therefore, embody them thus timely, in order that our readers may avail themselves of them. Should they do so, we doubt not but that their experience will be coincident with our own.

THE TEA PLANT.

Our readers may have noticed Mr. Puckett's advertisement, which has been for some time displayed upon the cover of our paper. It is with great pleasure we give place to the follow-

ing communication from the same gentleman. We are aware that the proposition to an American to raise his own tea, is calculated, at first, only to create a smile. This plant has so long been associated in our minds with the idea of China, that it is almost ridiculous to attempt to separate the two. But is there any foundation in truth for such a connexion? Diversified as are our soil and climate, there is nothing but a strictly tropical production that we cannot grow.

The great staples upon which we have heretofore relied, are from over-production and other causes completely failing us, and it is very evident that a portion of our agricultural labor must be diverted to other pursuits. Instead of raising wheat, tobacco, and cotton, to exchange for silk, tea, indigo, madder, &c., the day has arrived when we can grow all of these products to greater advantage for ourselves. We are no advocates of the forcing system; each plant requires its own soil and its own climate, and violence to nature in this respect is neither wise nor beneficial. It may be that there are some of the States of this Union to which the tea plant is not adapted, but it would be very strange if there were not others of them to which it is exactly suited. It is, we know, cultivated at different heights upon the mountain sides in China, and consequently at different temperatures, some of them certainly lower than that of the Southern States? Is there any thing peculiar in the soil of China which neither nature nor art can furnish in America? We have never heard of it, and we will stand by Mr. Puckett and the tea crop, until we hear of a fair experiment and a decided failure.

But we have already detained the reader too long with our own remarks. We will let the enterprising Mr. Puckett speak for himself:

Lynesville, Granville Co., N. C.

Dear Sir,—I have not met with the encouragement in selling the seed of the tea plant that I think I had a right to expect from the testimonials that were exhibited in its favor. It has given the most entire satisfaction to all who have tried it, and a good many will cultivate it in this neighborhood the coming season under my directions. I am afraid that the mulberry humbug will for sometime prejudice the public mind against the introduction of any new product, no matter what may be its intrinsic merit. I am unwilling to see an article that I know to be so valuable to the planter of the Southern States thus neglected. The price of the seed, accompanied as it is with full and complete directions for its cultivation, can surely be no bar to its introduction. If I had the opportunity I would be glad to make its merits more thoroughly known through the columns of the Planter.

Your obedient servant,

NEWBELL PUCKETT.

We will be happy to allow Mr. Puckett or his friends any space in the Planter that the nature of our work will afford. We will at least endeavor to hand down his name to posterity as that of the individual who introduced the tea plant into America. The day may come when it will be esteemed an honor to be proud of.

For the Southern Planter.

PREPARATION OF SEED CORN.

Mr. Editor,—In a conversation, held a year ago, with several gentlemen who were subscribers to your valuable paper, I mentioned my plan of preparing seed corn, which they thought well of, and desired me to communicate it, through the Southern Planter, to the public.

I believe farmers are fully persuaded of the advantage of rolling seed corn in plaster, but many have abandoned it, from the fact that the plaster soon becomes dry, and scales off the corn before the hands who are engaged in dropping can reach the end of a row of ordinary length; since thus the plaster and its benefits are lost.

My plan is, to put the quantity of corn required for a day in soak the night before: it is all carried into the field, and a small quantity (say, something less than a half bushel,) is drained at a time from the water, into which I stir shipstuff until the corn is entirely coated over with it; then put on the plaster, stirring it well together.

The shipstuff forms a glutinous coat over the grain, to which the plaster adheres with great tenacity; and though it may become dry, yet it will not easily fall off.

I have practiced the above plan for several years, and have found it entirely satisfactory.—One particular hand should always do the mixing; it will then be done with uniformity.

Yours, most respectfully,

LILBURN R. RAILEY.

Woodlands, Albemarle, March 20, 1845.

NEW WAY TO MAKE BUTTER.

The wife of a farmer saves herself the trouble of churning by the following contrivance: She ties up her cream in a linen cloth, over which she places a piece of print, and buries the whole in a damp place in the garden for twenty-four hours. She then takes it up, and turns the

cream (which by this time is in the shape and consistency of pudding) into a bowl, and by stirring it with a wooden spoon, the butter quickly separates from the butter-milk, and it is said to be sweeter than that produced by the ordinary method.—*Massachusetts Ploughman.*

DROUGHT.

We have received another very lengthy and learned article upon this important subject from Mr. Rice. We hope this gentleman will not take it ill that we are compelled to abridge and condense his communications—perhaps in doing so we are striking out some of his most learned views, but the nature of our work is thoroughly practical, and to this character all our communications must be made to conform. In the following extract we think our readers will find something of instruction, and something of novelty:

Our subject, you will remember, is an inquiry how we may best provide against the principal evil of our climate, a drought in the middle of summer.

In the first place I would advise that we cherish an aversion to the idea of growing corn, or even any thing else, in poor land. Under the most favorable circumstances and seasons we could expect but little remuneration for our labor, and in a dry summer, none at all. Much better, in general, to commit such land to the slowly ameliorating hands of time, broom-sedge and old field pine, until we can give it manure. But the principal reason for proposing this disposition of our poor land is, that it will not well admit of deep ploughing—a measure I am about to propose as one of the antidotes against drought. Deep ploughing applied to such land, without previous manuring, would intermix a minute portion of fertile earth with such a disproportionate mass of *caput mortuum* as to render the whole too poor to support any thing but pennyroyal or hen-grass. Corn is by no means a squeamish feeder, but it would scorn such a meager diet as such earth could afford, and for the same reason that the stomach of a drunkard would repudiate a mixture composed of a teaspoonful of alcohol and a gallon of water.

That the deep and thorough culture of corn or any other hoe crop, is the best preparation for a drought, is a fact which few will deny, but it is one on which many of us do not bestow merited attention. Suppose you work one field of corn four inches deep, and another eight; a drought supervenes, and of sufficient intensity to dry the ground in general four inches below the surface: now consider the relative condition of the corn in the two fields; in one, all the loose wrought earth is entirely dry, and, therefore, incapable of affording the least nourishment to the crop; and the unbroken earth below is so hard as to be scarcely, if at all permeable to the roots of the corn; whilst in the other field the roots are luxuriating in four inches depth of moist, well pulverized soil, and at the same time in a great measure protected by a superstructure of dry earth from the excessive and evaporating heat of the sun. There really seems to be a difference of life and death between the situation and probable destiny of the two corn fields.

But we should greatly err in supposing, that deep winter ploughing would always, or even generally, answer the purpose. For if great rains should intervene between the last deep ploughing and the first of July, and a drought should occur in that month, the soil would, during the progress of desiccation, become as coherent and hard and the crop suffer as much as if it had not been deeply worked at all. July is the month in which the occurrence of drought is most to be deprecated by the corn planter.—And his mode of culture ought to be much influenced by a reference to that fact.

Dry weather in May and June, approximating even the dignity of drought, by affording more time for cultivation, has a favorable, rather than injurious, influence on the ultimate proceeds of the crop.

If by the first of July the corn crop be in good order *in all respects* (several of which, however, remain yet to be indicated,) the planter may then lay aside his tools, and with hands and eyes devoutly upraised, exclaim, with the poet,

"Be gracious Heaven, for now laborious man has done his part."

From the preceding considerations I have long suspected that there was much labor as well as horse feed, aye, and horse flesh too, wasted in deep winter ploughing; and the results of my own experience have tended to convert suspicion into firm belief. Labor constitutes a large item in the price we pay for the productions of the soil; and he makes the best bargain in this respect, who for a series of years exchanges the smallest amount of labor for the greatest quantity of produce.

Some who begin to doubt the expediency of the practice, under reprehension, have proposed to discriminate and apply deep ploughing in winter to such land only as might have on it a thick covering of undecomposed litter. But it ought not to be forgotten, that free access of atmospheric air is one of the indispensable requisites of vegetable decomposition, and that the partial exclusion of air will retard, as its total exclusion will entirely prevent the decomposition of any vegetable substance. Who in ditching flat land has not seen the trunks of trees lying

horizontally as sound as when they fell, and leaves and twigs thrown in a sound state from not more than a foot below the surface, where, judging from local appearances, they must have lain for many years? A century or two before the Christian era, Julius Cæsar built a bridge across the Danube in order to facilitate the passage of his army. Forty or fifty years ago, some German literati, identifying the place by the particularity of the description he gives in his Commentaries, raised some of the timbers which had composed the foundation of the bridge from the bottom of the river, where they had always been protected from air by a sufficient depth of water. The wood was found to be in a perfectly sound, but partially petrified state. And vegetable remains in a sound and in some instances in an apparently fresh state, the leaves of trees being still attached to the branches on which they grew, have been discovered in coal pits in many parts of the world, at a great depth below the surface, where they had doubtless been covered over by the overwhelming action of water in primeval time.

It may be inquired what we are to do with respect to such parts of our intended corn land as are thickly covered with weeds and grass? Are we to let them remain untouched until a late and busy period of spring? In my opinion not so. Plough such land as early in the fall or winter as you conveniently can, but no deeper than is necessary to cover the greater part of the litter, and in some degree to intermix it with the earth, deferring deep work to the time of making arrangements preparatory to planting. No ploughing, how deep soever, would supersede the necessity of deep work, either with the plough or coulter, or both, on that occasion.—For you then operate on soil which will lie immediately under the growing corn, and, therefore, not be touched again during the course of cultivation.

The advantages of the proposed innovation on common usage (common at least in this part of the country) are, in the first place, that one horse will perform as much or more work, with respect to extent of wrought surface, than two, and thus an hundred per cent. of horse labor, horse feed, and horse flesh, be saved. Secondly, the litter will be much more completely decomposed and ready to aid in satisfying the great draft which the corn is to make on the soil during the months of July and August. But might not the lower unbroken part of the soil become hard in case of a dry spring? I answer no.—Protected from the sun and hard driving rains by the superincumbent mixture of loose soil and litter, it would be found quite moist and more friable than at any time during the preceeding fall or winter.

Yours, respectfully,

William Rice.

TO IMPROVE POOR LAND.

We make the following extract from a long article in the last Cultivator, written by Gideon B. Smith, Esq., of Baltimore:

Having properly grubbed, drained, and mixed the soil, the next thing to be done is to ascertain the quality of the whole. It most probably wants lime to make it complete. Take a handful here and there from the whole field, say twenty handsful in all; mix them well together; then take a handful from the whole mixture, put it upon a shovel and heat it red hot; then take it from the fire and let it cool; when cold, pulverize it into a fine powder, and pour upon it good cider vinegar; diluted muriatic acid is best, but vinegar, if good, will do; if it foams considerably, you want no lime in the soil; if it do not foam, you must then apply lime. Nearly all the land in the middle States wants lime, and is benefited by its application. If it wants no lime, then go to work as follows: plough in the fall with the deepest working plough you can afford. In the spring, sow corn broadcast; and as soon as it is as high as you can well turn under with a good plough and two or three horse team, turn it under well, and immediately sow corn again broadcast; as soon as that is high enough to turn under, turn that also with a deep working plough. Generally you may turn under three crops in the same season. In the fall plough deeply in turning the last crop of corn under, harrow and seed with wheat. However poor your land may have been, you may be sure of a good crop of wheat the ensuing harvest. In sowing the corn, about three to four bushels should be sown to the acre, each crop.

If by the trial above described, you find your land requires lime, then, before the first ploughing, apply twenty bushels of slacked lime to the acre, broadcast, then plough as before directed, sow the corn, and proceed as before, taking care to sow twenty bushels of lime before turning under each crop of corn; sow the lime on the corn as it stands, and turn corn and lime all in together. In this way, a first rate soil may be made out of the poorest old field in Maryland or any where else; and it will be observed that the only cost is in the liming and value of the seed corn, except the labor. Those who cannot afford to expend so much labor and money the first season, can extend the time over several seasons, applying say twenty or thirty bushels of lime to the acre, and turning under but one crop of corn each year.

UTILITY OF GEESE TO THE FARMER.

It has been long remarked that cattle of all kinds are never unhealthy where geese are kept in any quantity; and the reason assigned is

simply this, that geese consume with complete impunity, certain noxious weeds and grasses, which taint more or less, according to their abundance, the finest paddocks pastured by horses, bullocks and sheep. Most farmers are aware of this, and in many places where the beeves appear sickly, geese are let into the pastures, and the soil where they tread is converted for the time being into a sort of infirmary.—*New Farmers' Journal.*

For the Southern Planter.

EXPERIMENTS IN CORN AND WHEAT.

Mr. Editor,—As I have received both pleasure and profit from the perusal of your agricultural journal, by way of making some little return for the same, I submit a few experiments in corn and wheat, made during the last year.

I was induced from various results which appeared in your paper, to try experiments in thick planting of corn, and accordingly, had three lots of land prepared. The first contained one and a quarter acres; the second, three acres; the third, one acre. The land was well fallowed with a three-horse plough, harrowed, laid off and bedded with a two-horse plough; the beds were then well harrowed and opened with a scoop plough, to receive the seed.

Lot, No. 1, was laid off, a portion at the distance of 2½ feet, the balance 3 feet. The corn was dropped at the distance of 6 inches apart, by a measure made for the purpose, and covered with hoes. When of sufficient size, it was thinned and ploughed, leaving one stalk in the hill, and a small portion of earth drawn around the corn. It had no further ploughing; for that was impossible without great injury to the crop. I gave it a broadcast weeding with hoes, which was all that was done on that lot. It yielded 26½ barrels of corn, or 132½ bushels.

The other lots were managed in the same way, except that they received an additional ploughing and hoeing.

The three acre lot was planted 9 inches apart, the distance between the rows being 3½ feet.—It yielded 53 barrels.

The third lot, one acre, was laid off 4 feet between the rows, and the corn dropped 12 inches apart. It yielded 12 barrels.

It is proper to say, that this land was all of the very best quality of James River lowgrounds, of lower level than the main body of lowgrounds adjoining; and the lot of one and a quarter acres particularly adapted to the growth of corn, being more mixed with river sand and other light rich deposites.

These crops were perfected without having rain after the corn began to shoot.

I will take the liberty of mentioning the results of two corn crops of my neighbor, Mr. Lewis W. Cabell, for the years 1843 and 1844. He adopts the thick system, and his preparation is similar to mine. His crop in 1843 averaged 12 barrels throughout; a portion of it being made on high land. In 1844 it averaged between 16 and 17 barrels on a field of seventeen acres.

I consider it no longer a matter of experiment, and the farmer who plants his rich land under the old system, throws away half his labor and more than half his profits.

My experiment in the thick seeding of wheat, gave me a very different result. I prepared several lots with great care, and sowed 1½, 2 and 3 bushels to the acre. The lot on which I sowed 3 bushels, proved a total failure; it soon fell, and never recovered, owing to the weakness of the straw; and the crop rotted on the ground. The lots of 1½ and 2 bushels to the acre brought me a fine crop. I am perfectly satisfied two bushels to the acre is enough for any land, and have my doubts whether one and a half would not be preferable.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
MAYO CABELL.

Union Hill, March 15, 1845.

N. B.—I planted the corn in the lots above mentioned, between the 5th and 10th of April, but should prefer planting the last week in March, if the season suited. My experience is greatly in favor of early planting; and the only sure preventive against rust in wheat, on the river, is early seeding. M. C.

From the Prairie Farmer.

ROADS.

BY J. C. FITZ.

Now suppose instead of the plank we substitute earth, run a ditch on each side of the road, after cutting off the timber or bushes, if any there be to shade; make these ditches of sufficient magnitude so that when the substance taken out is applied to the road it will cause the surface to be convex, and the more so the softer, wetter, or lower the land is through which it runs; that is, a section of the road crosswise should be a segment of a circle—the width and convexity to be regulated by circumstances.—One of the machines described in your paper for ditching might be employed to advantage.

When done, allow none but broad-rimmed wheels, three inches wide at least for the lightest pleasure wagon, and every thing else in proportion. Under this treatment the road will immediately become hard and smooth; in fact, the more it is used, with some few exceptions, the better it will be. I have seen a cart, having two wheels and loaded with more than a ton of

hay, drawn on a marsh until the oxen sunk in up to their bellies—the wheels scarcely making a mark; these wheels were five feet two inches high, and five inches wide on tread; the tire was a quarter of an inch thick, and the width of the felloe.

We won't insist upon it that it is the best plan, but in Virginia we generally reverse this process; that is, the centre of our roads is usually the lowest: it certainly is not very uncommon to see our roads a pretty fair representation of a good, broad canal, and that with a reasonable supply of water.

For the Southern Planter.

EXPERIMENTS IN PLANTING CORN.

Mr. Editor,—I am instructed by the Orange Agricultural Club, to forward the enclosed report to you, with the request that you publish it in the next number of the Southern Planter.

Very Respectfully,

James L. Jones, *Rec. Sec'y.*

Gordonsville, March 17, 1845.

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Under a resolution of the Club, requiring experiments to be instituted for the purpose of testing the comparative advantages of different modes of planting corn, with reference to distance, the following report is respectfully submitted:

An area of 1,600 square yards, on a southern slope in the middle of a field was selected, and divided into four equal parts, of 400 square yards each. The rows in No. 1 were laid off three feet apart; No. 2, four feet; No. 3, five feet, two stalks to the hill; and No. 4, five feet: No. 1, 2 and 4, had each one stalk to the hill; and the whole varying from sixteen to twenty-four inches in the step, averaging probably twenty inches.

The land was well ploughed with a No. 12, M'Cormick, and harrowed before planting. After the corn came up it was cultered once, subsequently ploughed once with the coulter shovel plough, and very slightly hoed once. The following is the result, estimating a flour barrel of ears to be equal to a bushel and a half of shelled corn:

No. 1, rows three feet apart, one stalk to the hill, 6 bushels, or at the rate of 14 barrels 3 bushels per acre.

No. 2, rows four feet apart, one stalk to the hill, 5 bushels 1 peck 6 quarts, or at the rate of 13 barrels 1 bushel 2 pecks and three quarts per acre.

No. 3, rows five feet apart, 2 stalks to the hill, 5 bushels 3 pecks 2 quarts, or at the rate of 13 barrels 3 bushels and 2 quarts per acre.

No. 4, rows five feet apart, one stalk to the hill, 4 bushels 1 peck, or at the rate of 10 barrels 2 bushels and 2 quarts per acre.

Showing a difference of more than four barrels per acre in favor of three feet over five, and an average of more than one barrel over Nos. 2 and 3.

It will be recollected by the Club that a similar experiment was made and reported on in 1843, when the season up to the first of August was remarkably dry, and the difference in that, was still more in favor of the thickest planting.

It is proper to remark, in conclusion, that No. 1 (the most productive) was planted on land, inferior to all the rest in quality; or at least less adapted to the growth of corn, being of a slaty character, and too close a texture.

The corn planted was of the twin or double-eared variety, which is believed to bear thicker planting than most other kinds.

James Newman.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

We are happy to learn that an agricultural school has been established in North Carolina, under the patronage of Bishop Ives. It is situated in Ashe county, and comprises about five hundred acres with the requisite buildings. The labor feature is partially introduced; that is, the pupils are required to labor only such a time as is supposed to be requisite to afford them a practical knowledge of agriculture. The course of instruction is intended to be thorough in all the departments of a liberal education. Instruction, board, washing and fuel, are all furnished for one hundred and twenty-five dollars a year, payable half yearly in advance.

We lately received a letter from the Rt. Rev. gentleman at the head of this institution, and some of the sentiments expressed in it are so correct, and so appropriate to the nature of our work, that we cannot forbear laying it before our readers. The writer will excuse our taking this liberty with a communication that we know was not intended for publication:

Raleigh, March 12, 1845.

My Dear Sir,—Many thanks for your very interesting and useful publication, which I have just received; also for the straw-cutter, which I hope to receive soon. The progress in agricultural knowledge and improvement is most gratifying. The evidences of increased interest in the subject here are striking. The book merchants, Turner & Hughes, inform me that during the late sitting of our Legislature more books on agriculture were disposed of than had been for

the *previous seventeen years*, the length of time in which they had done business in this place. This is encouraging, not only to the worldly economist, but to the Christian minister, for I regard the cultivation of the soil as intimately connected with the religion and morality of a country. My own observation has led to this conviction, and hence in an attempt to do something for the spiritual interests of our roving mountaineers, I have felt it my duty to endeavor first of all to break up their habits of idleness and hunting, and infuse among them a spirit for the improvement of their rich, but neglected lands. Indeed I look to the change of feeling now going on in favor of agriculture in this State as one of the most promising signs of the times both in regard to the physical and moral advancement of the people.

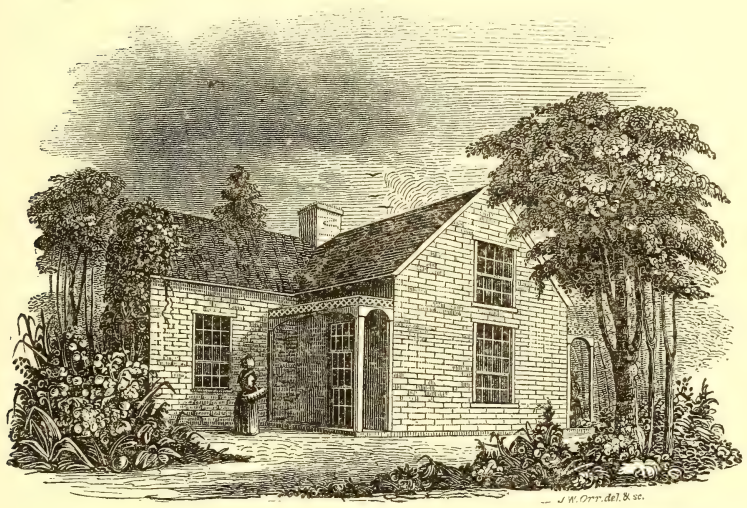
Excuse these quite unintentional remarks.—At a future time I may take up this subject in earnest, with a view to aid in the impression which your deserving periodical is slowly, but surely producing in favor of agriculture.

With the truest regard,

Your friend and servant,

L. S. Ives.

WORKING MAN'S COTTAGE.



From time to time we have given representations of a more costly style of country house; we now furnish a simpler and cheaper one, (taken from a former number of the Cultivator,) for the use of our more economical readers. There is no reason why good taste should not adorn the cottage of the peasant as well as the palace of the prince.

We hail the increased taste for architectural improvement which is manifesting itself in our country as a happy proof of a greater attachment to our homes and as indicating a fixedness of purpose, the want of which has been a great bar to agricultural improvement.

CULTURE OF THE CUCUMBER.

I will state a fact relative to the planting of cucumbers, which came under my observation, and which is worthy of being known. I shall at least give a further trial myself of its reality; though I cannot conceive there is a doubt remaining on the subject. Last spring, a friend of mine and myself were planting cucumbers at the same time. I was planting mine, as usual, in the gardens, by mixing a small portion of stable manure with the earth, and raising the hill an inch or two above the surface of the ground. Observing it, he jocosely remarked, "Let me show you how to raise cucumbers." Never having much luck in raising them, I cheerfully agreed to his proposition. He commenced by making holes in the earth, at the distance intended for the hills, that would hold about a peck—he then filled them with dry leached ashes, covering the ashes with a very small quantity of earth. The seed were then planted on a level with the surface of the ground. I was willing to see the experiment tried, but had no expectation of anything but a

loss of seed, labor and soil. But imagine my astonishment, (notwithstanding a drier season never was known, and almost a universal failure of garden vegetables,) when I beheld vines remarkable thrifty, and as fine a crop of cucumbers as any one could wish to raise, and they continued to bear for an unusually long time.—I will not philosophize on the subject—but say to all, try it; and instead of throwing your ashes away, apply it where it will be of use, and you will reap a rich reward.—*Ohio Farmer.*

Upon the foregoing, the Editor of the Maine Cultivator says, "We last season made trial of the above plan, and found it to succeed admirably."

SOUTHERN PLANTER.

If Virginia does not become the first agricultural State in the Union, it will not be for the want of a good paper. We receive no journal which gives us more decided pleasure than this. Its Editor, C. T. Botts, Esq., knows what he is about, and adapts his paper to the wants of his readers. Published at Richmond, one dollar per annum.

The above is extracted from the "Prairie Farmer," decidedly the most knowing paper with which we are acquainted.

From the New England Farmer.

EXPERIMENTS IN SOAKING SEED CORN MURIATE OF AMMONIA.

Some time last May, I accidentally saw a notice of some mode of preparing seed for planting, invented in Germany, which was said to insure good crops, even upon poor and barren land, at a very trifling cost. What the preparation was, the discoverer refused to make known. While thinking over the various substances that had been or might be used with advantage, it occurred to me that muriate of ammonia, the common sal ammoniac of the druggists, might answer well for the purpose required, both from the nature of its base and its acid; and I determined to try the experiment of using it.

I accordingly dissolved a small piece, weighing by estimate four or five grains, in about half a coffee-cup of water. Into this a small handful of good sound corn was thrown, and suffered to remain four or five hours, and then planted. By the side of each hill, at a proper distance, was planted another hill with corn from the same ear, but unsoaked. Generally in each spot only one hill of each kind was planted; but in one place a hill of the soaked corn was placed on each side of the unsoaked. The particulars and results were as follows, viz:

No. 1. Planted in good light soil, into which a fair dressing of coarse long stable manure had been ploughed; about five kernels were planted in each hill. Result:

Soaked.	Unsoaked.
8 ears, 6 good, 2 small.	4 ears.

No. 2. Three hills—2 of soaked, and between them one of unsoaked corn. Soil dry, sandy, and close to the edge of a path where little or no manure fell in the spreading of it. Result:

Soaked.	Unsoaked.
a. 5 ears, 3 of them good.	3 good ears.
b. 5 ears, 3 of them good.	

No. 3. Two hills—in a dry, sandy bed, occupied for a dozen years by gooseberry bushes, which were rooted up about two years before. During all that time, the ground had never been manured, otherwise than that a dressing of rotten chips had several times been put about the bushes, which were well trimmed and kept clear of weeds. During the two last years, it had borne cabbages, which were watered a number of times with soapsuds and the drainings of a sink where dishes were washed. Result:

Soaked.	Unsoaked.
3 large good ears and 3 abortive ears.	3 rather poor ears.

No. 4. Two hills—on the edge of a sandy square, reserved for several years past for squashes, which were manured in the hill, so that the place where the corn was planted, had no benefit from it, being at least four feet from the nearest hill. Result:

Soaked.	Unsoaked.
3 good ears.	3 rather poor ears.

No. 5. Three hills—in a moister piece of ground, into which a light dressing of coarse stable manure had been dug with a spade, but just under the edge of the boughs of some large honey locusts, the roots of which filled the ground, and exhausted the soil so, that I have found it difficult to make any thing valuable grow there but early bush beans. Result:

Soaked.	Unsoaked.
4 good ears.	3 poor ears.

The land where all the four first experiments were tried, was light and dry, and suffered considerably from drought about the time the ears were forming. Potatoes for early use, in the immediate vicinity were completely stopped in their growth about the last of July, the hills being perfectly dry to the bottom, and not getting fairly moist again for a period of three weeks. Owing to this, the produce of the corn was less than it would have been with seasonable rains; but in all cases, the hills, the seed in which had been soaked, manifested a decided superiority, not only in productiveness, but in the size and vigor of the stalk and leaves; as was remarked by several of my friends, whose opinion I asked without informing them of any difference in the seed. For all the trials but the first mentioned, poor spots were taken pur-

posely, that the effect of the soaking might be observed free from the influence of manure.

Three or four soaked kernels were also planted in a spot near the door of a shed, where sprouted cuttings of grape-vines had been several times set, and all which had perished from the united effects of drought, barrenness and heat. Even here I obtained three good stalks, and two good ears.

SAMUEL WEBBER, M. D.

Charlestown, N. H., Feb. 19, 1844.

For the Southern Planter.

TOP DRESSING—MANAGEMENT OF STIFF CLAYS.

Mr. Editor,—In the January number of the Planter you have copied from the South Carolina Temperance Advocate an article upon the subject of manure, in which the writer contends that manure does not sink. Now, I do not intend troubling you or your readers with any theories of mine upon this subject, but shall content myself with simply stating some *facts*, which I think go far to show that the conclusion to which the author of that piece has come, is erroneous.

Some eight or ten years ago I had in the field which I intended for wheat some thin spots, which required improvement. There were two contiguous knolls, one of which was heavily cow-penned, and the other top dressed with farm pen compost, which induced a luxuriant crop of clover; both of these were fallowed and seeded in wheat, and produced about an equal amount of wheat, the cow-penned spot being much injured by the scab. This land is now in clover, and upon the thin spots I am spreading straw. The knoll which was cow-penned will require some, whilst the one top-dressed will do well with an application of plaster.

Again, in 1839, I had about an acre of land in my corn field too poor to put in corn; this was left out and heavily manured with farm-pen compost, and immediately ploughed and planted in peas. The next fall it was sown in wheat, and produced about fifteen bushels, but having to go in wheat again this fall, I shall have to top-dress the clover this spring, or look for a poor crop.

Near this piece there was a small spot not manured that year, but upon the clover which followed the wheat crop I had some half-rotted chaff spread, which produced such an effect, that the most careless observer could at once point out the spot.

The conclusion to which my mind has come upon this subject is this, that the farmer should adopt that course which best accomplishes his object, regardless of fine spun theories, which often "dazzle to lead us astray;" and finding that top-dressing is the most effectual plan with me, I shall continue to practice it.

In the communication of your brother, I find that he used saltpetre as a soak for his corn. This has been considered a good one as far back as 1783, when it was recommended by Judge Peters. Feeling desirous of using it this spring, I will thank you if you will ascertain how it is used, and give us the directions in the *April* number. Judge Peters recommends it, but adds, do not soak it too long. As this is too indefinite, I wished to know what was the practice of our farmers.*

In one of the late numbers of the Planter you wished to know what would soonest recover and make productive stiff clay land. Some of our best farmers have tried experiments with wood-pile manure upon such spots with eminent success. There is one fact stated in connexion with this subject which is important.—The very best farmer in this section of country, stated to me that one such piece of land had never produced a decent crop of wheat until an application of this kind was made, and the result was a heavy yield.

Respectfully, yours,

QUINTUS BARBOUR.

Madison, March 15, 1845.

For the Southern Planter.

LIME AND PLASTER.

Mr. Botts,—Being a subscriber to your paper I feel great anxiety for its success, as well on your account, as for the credit of the State. I assume that Virginia was inferior to no State in the Union in its pristine state; what she now is all can see; desolation, like a Sirocco, has passed over us, and though it is natural to sorrow over the ruin, it is wise to cast about for the cure and corrective. I believe vegetable and calcareous matter are most to be depended upon. All who use lime freely are sure to have plenty of vegetable matter in cornstalks, straw, and grass. I have been a farmer for forty-seven years; through all that time I have used plaster of Paris freely; after the application of twenty or thirty bushels to the acre, my land tired, as the farmers said, and no longer responded to the application. The question then came up of, What is to be done? I had many doctors, and as usual, all differing. I concluded to try lime, and after much discouragement, became convinced that lime was my only hope. I have used from sixty to four hun-

* The general directions for using the solution, are, to put a pound of saltpetre in enough water to cover a bushel of corn and let the seed soak for twenty-four hours. Care should be taken not to permit the corn to shrink after it is taken out of soak before it is planted: in other words, it should be planted whilst it is still wet with the solution.—ED.

dred bushels, and found all good; the four hundred especially. My usual application is sixty bushels, which comes round thus: first wheat, then clover, clover, then wheat. I have not passed the third application of lime, except for experiment, and these upon wheat. I have applied it upon blowing, drifting sands, and with better effect than upon clay; but upon all it is good.

Any part of my farm, of six hundred acres, will now give me a ton or more of clover, and after a good sowing, I seed two or three gallons per acre, I rely mainly upon the root for fertilizing the land. The difference between the crops now and when I began to farm, is ten to one, or more of corn, wheat and oats; and of grass full one thousand for one.

As for manure, that is the life and blood of farming: like the hair of Samson, it is the boundless strength.

Let me be understood; one-fourth of my farm was occupied by rushes, frogs, cranes, wild hens, &c. &c. Ditching was as important, or more so, than lime: this I have done to the strange amount of twenty-five thousand yards, or more. We are now as dry as the hills. Eighty-five thousand bushels of oyster shells have been burnt and spread, and dear old mother earth, to whose lap I must soon pass, cries for more; and more she shall have, for I take pride in robing her in green and gold, for she will hush me to sweet repose when all the world has forgotten me.

FAIRFAX.

Fairfax County, Feb. 18, 1845.

P. S.—You may not ask my name—I have no ambition; I live upon the great Washington and Richmond highway, and all who pass can see. I am the same who called upon Virginia through the columns of the Register, published by Mr. Ruffin, to do *honestly* what she professed, protect person and property: her fence law was barbarous and savage; A was taxed, and B was allowed to eat him up, who paid no tax. F.

RED INK FOR WRITING.

Boil over a slow fire four ounces of Brazil-wood, in small raspings or chips, in a quart of water, till a third part of the water is evaporated. Add during the boiling two drachms of alum in powder. When the ink is cold, strain it through a fine cloth. Vinegar or stale urine is often used instead of water. In case of using water, adding a very small quantity of sal ammoniac would improve the ink.—*Selected.*

TO MAKE FINE BLACK WRITING INK.

Take two gallons of a strong decoction of logwood, well strained, and then add one and a half pounds of blue galls in coarse powder; six ounces sulphate of iron; one ounce acetate of copper; six ounces well ground sugar; and twelve ounces gum arabic. Set the above on the fire until it begins to boil, then set it away until it has acquired the desired black.—*Selected.*

AN OFFER.

For every four new subscribers that any friend will send us we will furnish him a copy of the first, third or fourth volume of the Planter, and for every ten subscribers, we will furnish all three of these volumes.

ERRATUM.

If in the last number, at page 57, the reader will transfer the first line of the left hand column to the foot of the right hand column, both paragraphs will be sensibly improved.

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SANDS'S SARSAPARILLA,

FOR THE REMOVAL AND PERMANENT CURE OF ALL DISEASES ARISING FROM AN IMPURE STATE OF THE BLOOD, OR HABIT OF THE SYSTEM.

THIS medicine is constantly performing almost incredible cures of diseases arising from impurities of the blood and general system. It has arrested and cured numerous cases of scrofulous affections, diseases of the skin, rheumatic gout, diseased liver, painful enlargement of the knee, elbow aud wrist joints, chronic rheumatism, sore throat, chronic constitutional disorders, and various other disorders arising from impure secretions. In this preparation are strongly concentrated all the valuable medicinal properties of Sarsaparilla, on which its activity depends, compounded with other remedial agents, selected from the vegetable kingdom, the whole strength of which is extracted on an entirely new principle, which has cost many years of labor and much expense. The great object desired is now triumphantly accomplished, in the production of a remedy possessing a controlling power over supposed incurable diseases, heretofore unknown in the history of medicine.

The testimony of those who have been cured by its use, with their residence, has been published from time to time, and were it desirable a mass of the most overwhelming testimony could be brought forward, proving most conclusively its inestimable value, as an active and curative medicine in the above diseases. The afflicted, or those who may have given up in despair, and all who are interested, are invited to make a trial of this valuable medicine, or to call on those who have come forward and borne public testimony of its priceless value to them, and satisfy themselves individually of its power in arresting and curing disease, and of what it has performed for others.

The following interesting case is presented, and and the reader invited to its careful perusal. Comment on such evidence is unnecessary.

NEW YORK, July, 25, 1844.

Messrs. Sands:—Gents—I consider it but an act of justice to you to state the following facts in reference to the great benefit I have received in the cure of an obstinate CANCEROUS ULCER on my breast.

I was attended eighteen months by a regular and skilful physician, assisted by the advice and counsel of one of our most able and experienced surgeons, without the least benefit whatever. All the various methods of treating cancer were resorted to; for five weeks in succession my breast was burned with caustic three times a day, and for six it was daily syringed with a weak solution of nitric acid, and the cavity or internal ulcer was so large that it held over an ounce of the solution. The Doctor probed the ulcer and examined the bone, and said the disease was advancing rapidly to the lungs, and if I did not get speedy relief by medicine or an operation, the result would be fatal. I was advised to have the breast laid open and the bones examined, but finding no relief from what had been done, and feeling I was rapidly getting worse, I almost despaired of recovery, considered my case nearly hopeless.

Seeing various testimonials and certificates of cure by the use of "SANDS' SARSAPARILLA," in cases similar to my own, I concluded to try a few bottles, several of which were used, but from the long, deep seated character of my disease, produced no very decided change; considering this as the only probable cure for my case, I persevered, until the disease was entirely cured. It is now over eleven months since the cure was completed; there is not the slightest appearance of a return, and I *therefore pronounce myself* WELL, and the cure *entirely effected by* "SANDS' SARSAPARILLA," as *I took no other medicine of any kind during the time I was using it, nor have I taken any since.* Please excuse this long deferred acknowledgment, which I think it my duty to make. Your valuable Sarsaparilla cured me, with the blessing of Divine Providence, when nothing else could, and I feel myself under lasting obligations to you. I can say many things I cannot write, and I do most respectfully invite ladies afflicted as I have been, to call upon me and I will satisfy them fully of the truth as stated above, and many other things in reference to the case.

NANCY J. MILLER, 218 Sullivan st.

The following letter from one of the most eminent Physicians in the city of Baltimore, is presented with a view of showing the opinions of Physicians generally in relation to this valuable medicine,—many others of a similar tenor have been received from several of the most distinguished physicians throughout our country.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 4th, 1843.

A. B. & D. Sands.—Gentlemen:—I have used your Extract of Sarsaparilla since its introduction into this city. It gives me pleasure to state, I have found it to answer my most sanguine expectations. I believe it to be the best preparation of that valuable article now in use. With much respect, yours,

JOHN WHITRIDGE, M. D., 46 Gay Street.

For further particulars and conclusive evidence of its superior value and efficacy, see pamplets, which may be obtained of agents gratis.

Prepared and sold Wholesale and Retail by
A. B. & D. SANDS, Druggists and Chemists,
79 Fulton st. New York.

Authorized agents for the Proprietors, in Richmond A. Duval & Co., in Petersburg Rosser and Anderson, in Norfolk M. A. Santos, in Lynchburg D. R. Lyman, in Fredericksburg James Cook, in Raleigh, N. C., Williams & Haywood.

Sold also by Druggists generally throughout the United States. Price $1 per bottle—six bottles for $5.

☞The public are respectfully requested to remember that it is Sands's Sarsaparilla, that has and is constantly achieving such remarkable cures of the most difficult class of diseases to which the human frame is subject, and ask for Sands' Sarsaparilla and take no other. my 1 6t

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MAGNIFICENT ESTATE FOR SALE.

RAVENSWOOD, the homested of the late Geo. Pollok, Esq. of North Carolina, is for sale. This estate contains 12,000 acres of land lying on the Trent River, within 15 miles of the healthy and delightful village of Newbern. Of this property there are 1800 acres of swamp or Pocosin land, thoroughly drained, much of it cleared, and about 600 acres ditched off into ten acre lots, by means of canals 5 feet wide and 8 feet deep. The fertility of these lots [and the whole of the 1800 acres may be brought to the same state] cannot be exceeded by the flats of Holland; it produces hemp from 10 to 13 feet in height, and the growth of corn is, almost in spite of season, prodigious. The highland is well ditched and enclosed, and the buildings and fixtures, comprising a handsome dwelling, saw-mill, grist mill, cotton gin, &c. &c. are too extensive to be enumerated.

The parties to whom this valuable and beautiful estate have fallen, being otherwise engaged, and aware of the necessity of holding out an extraordinary inducement to a purchaser at this time, offer the whole for $30,000, payable in the most convenient manner. They consider it cheaper than even the best government land in the south or west.

The Pocosin land when reclaimed, is not only as fertile as land can be, but it is as light and friable as an ash bed; little more than single horse ploughs are ever needed for its cultivation. There are two creeks running through the land, upon the banks of which MARL and LIMESTONE are found in the greatest abundance. Sea going vessels load at the landing, two miles from the cornfields. For further particulars, apply to C. T. BOTTS.

THOMAS & CHARLES ELLIS,

IMPORTERS OF DRY GOODS, HARDWARE, CUTLERY AND GUNS,

E Street, Opposite the Exchange Bank.

RICHARD HILL, Jr.

GENERAL AGENT AND COLLECTOR,

OFFICE No. 183, MAIN STREET, CORNER BELOW THE BANKS.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

The subscriber would call attention to his stock of Agricultural Implements, consisting of PLOUGHS, STRAW CUTTERS, CORNSHELLERS, CORN AND COB CRUSHERS, Hoes, Spades, Shovels, Axes, &c. &c. which he will furnish as good and sell as low, as they can be had in the State of Virginia.

C. T. BOTTS.

Hussey's Reaping Machine.

FARMERS who intend procuring this machine to cut their next harvest, will please send their orders soon to the subscriber in Baltimore. The uncertainty felt by farmers for a year or two past, as to what machine they had better procure, appears from present indications, to be considerably removed, as the orders already received are more than double the number of any previous year, up to the middle of February. To say nothing of what this machine will do in good standing grain, it is warranted to cut grain in such bad condition, as no other reaping machine ever made can cut at all.

Baltimore, February 18, 1845.

OBED HUSSEY.

PERUVIAN GUANO.

THE subscribers are prepared to furnish to order, Guano of the cargo imported by Saml. K. George, Esq. Agent of the Peruvian Guano Company, and warranted genuine, at three cents per lb. for one or more bags, less than a ton in weight, or $2 50 per 100 lbs. for one or more tons.

This cargo is warranted to be pure and of the best quality, and is in the original bags (of about 130 lbs. each.) All orders, to insure attention, must be accompanied with the cash.

Richmond, Feb. 5, 1845.

DUNLOP, MONCURE & CO.

LAND AGENCY.

SUCH has been the Subscriber's success in this department of his business and such is the increasing notoriety he is obtaining as an Agent for the Sale of Real Estate, that he does not hesitate to recommend his services as mutually beneficial both to those seeking to buy and to sell.

With his extensive knowledge of the wants of persons desiring to purchase, derived from the various applications that he is daily receiving, it is almost impossible that any one desiring to sell should fail to reap from his services five or six times as much as he charges for them. Those charges are as formerly—when the property is sold within 12 months from the date at which he is employed, if the sale amounts to ten thousand dollars, he is to receive $100 out of the first payment of the purchase money—if it amounts to less than that sum, he is to receive $50. If at the end of 12 months the property remains unsold he is to receive $10.

☞ Information furnished those desiring to purchase, without charge.

C. T. BOTTS.

HORSE POWER AND THRESHING MACHINE.

THE Subscriber is manufacturing, for $120, what he believes to be the best Horse Power and Threshing Machine now in use. He is emboldened to say so, from the fact, that where it was used last year it was universally approved. The Horse Power, particularly, is unrivalled. From two to four horses is all the power that is ever required, and for compactness, ease of draft and durability, it cannot be excelled.

This Machine is calculated to get out *cleanly* from 120 to 150 bushels per day; but for $150 a larger drum will be furnished, that with four horses will thresh 250 bushels.

Orders are pouring in, and those desiring these Machines will please inform me at once, that I may not be hurried in getting them up; and therefore may have a better opportunity of turning out a good article.

C. T. BOTTS.

☞See Mr. Roane's opinion of this Machine in the March No. of the Planter.

Wood Engraving.

A GOOD Engraver is much wanted in the City of Richmond. In a population of 25,000, there is no one who makes a business of engraving.